



## soundbites

### ISOTEK SYNCRO MAINS CABLE

Arguably one of the strangest looking (and more expensive) mains cables ever to appear on the market, the Syncro features a pre-filter device situated within an anti-resonant chassis. The point is to synchronise (hence the name) the mains supply to offer the attached component a symmetrical sine wave, realigning the waveform. This is claimed to give a reduction in mains-related noise. To test the new Syncro, I plugged it into a wall mains socket and hooked the other end to power up my IsoTek Aquarius mains conditioner with a series of IsoTek Elite and IsoTek Optimum mains cables running from the Aquarius to my reference hi-fi system. For comparative purposes, I also tried an IsoTek Extreme mains cable to power up

the same Aquarius. The new Syncro is priced at more than twice the price of the Extreme, so is it worth the upgrade?

Sound tests were intriguing because the most obvious aspect of the performance was a major reduction in harshness and 'mush' – an element which was not obviously present with the original IsoTek Extreme mains cable but was noticeable by its very absence when the cable was replaced with the Syncro. The result was a beautifully smooth series of vocal performances which glided over the soundstage, lacking any sort of harsh delivery and making subtle vocal inflections and varying vocal power surges wholly more obvious. All organic instruments now exhibited sparkle and shimmer while the removal of the excessive distortion allowed all instruments,

of whatever variety, time to breathe. Bass, meanwhile, was no longer trying to be understood.

That is, there was now a complete lack of lower frequency strain. With the Extreme cable, bass seemed to be almost artificial in nature, as if it was being propped up by scaffolding. With the Syncro, those same lower frequencies exhibited a shape and structure. A highly impressive piece of kit.

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