

Akiko Audio DIY Products Review by Mr. John van Polen from Puresound.be

A unique balance between price and results

At the start of 2010 I got my hands on a pair of Thiel CS6 speakers. The following year I was able to bring the controller up to level. The system immediately sounded great, but to get rid of all the rough, sharp and interruptive sounds, and to bring the spaciousness to new levels, I had to apply a range of accessories. The Akiko Audio products turned out to be exceptionally effective: the Triple AC Enhancer, the Power Conditioner Corelli and the Tuning Chips belong to the best products I have ever tried. Recently Akiko Audio released a new series of accessories under the label "DIY", which of course stands for Do It Yourself. These small black boxes are connected to the earthing in the meter cupboard or placed in a power conditioner or other device. Four types are available:

- The DIY Harmonizer Unit is identical to the Harmonizer in the Power Conditioner Corelli and enhances its effects by being placed in the meter cupboard.
- The DIY Fuse Box Unit is also placed in the meter cupboard and is a standalone conditioner (meant for people without a Corelli).
- The DIY Power Unit is connected to the earthing wire in of a power strip, power conditioner or power supply.
- The DIY Equipment Unit was developed to be placed in a device (CD player, amplifier, etc.) and is meant to be connected to the earthing in a socket or separate earth point.



Listening to the results

The DIY Harmonizer Unit was the first to be tested. A small metal screw terminal on the white earthing wire in my meter cupboard connects to the living room's power cable. Adding the Harmonizer wire wasn't a problem. The effect on my TV corner was immediately audible. The on-screen colour contrast improved almost magically and the home cinema sound provided more information and was less sharp when

listening to YouTube music videos. The effect on the large high-end stereo set was less noticeable. Moreover, the sound image seemed to drop a little. Akiko Audio's Marc van Berlo let me know that the meter cupboard and Corelli Harmonizers first "need to merge-in". Hence there is a play-in effect. In the meantime, the sound has returned to normal whereas the noise floor has dropped. This warmed me up for more!

I spotted my PS Audio P3000. This is a so-called regenerator, a machine which rebuilds the power and provides my sources and pre-amp with pure energy. But of course, this raises the question: "Is

this a power conditioner or some other device (essentially it is an amplifier)?” Eventually we decided to apply the DIY Power Unit here. My P3000 is set-up sideways. The fan has been taken out and the bottom plate has holes. Placing the DIY Power Unit in the device was therefore easy, screwing the

wire to the earthing point at the back. To my pleasant surprise this was also immediately and clearly audible: more dynamics, clarity and detail. Not an earthshattering change of course – that is simply impossible in a system which is already saturated with similar accessories – but nonetheless a significant change in my opinion, which definitely justifies the purchase.

Finally, I tested the DIY Equipment Unit. The Classé CP-700 pre-amp seemed like the most logical device to add this accessory to. This handsome device has an earthing with tough screw connectors at the back. Placing the Unit inside the device is therefore somewhat problematic. “Couldn’t I just use this earthing and place the DIY Equipment Unit on top of the device?” I wondered. Marc van Berlo let me know it would probably work less well, but I thought I’d try it anyway. The results didn’t lie: cleaner, purer, and more detailed sound, more audible singing and spatial precision, etcetera. The DIY Equipment Unit was also gratefully accepted!



Conclusion

With the DIY series, Akiko Audio has created unique accessories which, in simple and subtle ways, significantly improve the performance of audio and video systems. The units are easy to install and the price is downright low in relation to their results in a top system. Americans call this “a no brainer”. Try it yourself immediately!

Information

www.akikoaudio.com

Original review: http://www.puresound.be/home/archive/2017/oktober/article/akiko-audio-diy-producten-een-unieke-verhouding-tussen-effect-en-prijs/?tx_ttnews%5Bday%5D=25&cHash=7e14cbd793da4257e617316ba0c44210