

## Review on Akiko Audio Equipment Tuning Chip 3D by Puresound.be

About 10 years ago German audio magazines first reported about “Chips”: stickers which are stuck onto audio components. Recently Akiko Audio presented their version of this remarkable accessory. In this review a first impression of the so called Equipment Tuning Chip 3D’s effects.



### A fierce controversy

Those German magazines stirred up quite something back then. The thought that a device could sound better simply by sticking a plastic sticker on it was a bridge too far for many readers. Accusations of swindles, rip-offs and “mind-tricks” were fierce and numerous. As usual, most decibels were produced by those who know the least. Now, a good ten years on, it has become clear that such products can in fact produce audible effects. I and many others have tested Chips from various manufactures, reviewed them and enjoyed listening to their effects. A clear explanation for their functioning is yet to come however. Manufacturers speak of “programming” (hence the name Chips) or “informing” the plastic stickers, enabling them to “harmonise” disruptive electromagnetic fields. Well, what are you supposed to do with that? Either ignore it or listen to the effects I’d say. So I went with the second option.

### The Equipment Tuning Chip 3D



Akiko Audio offers a complete range of Tuning Chips for a host of practices. Besides the stickers we already know from other companies my attention was drawn to two different looking ones: the Power Tuning Chip 3D and the Equipment Tuning Chip 3D are small sheets made of firm aluminium. As I have already made many tweaks to my power supply and it isn’t possible to test everything, I ordered two Equipment Tuning Chips.

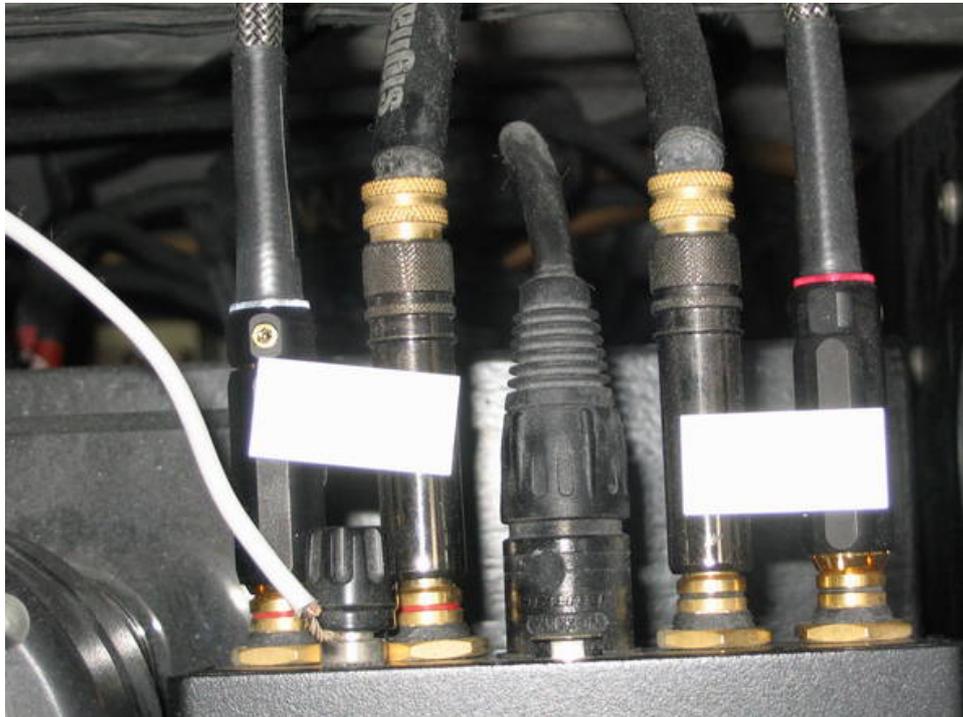
The Power Tuning Chip is of course meant for power strips and to improve the power supply, but the Equipment Tuning Chips are used to improve the conduction of the audio signal itself. I placed my two Chips on the front of the Marantz premium amplifier and CD-player in my study and expected at most a subtle effect. I was wrong, but only for the best. Immediately I could hear a strong increase in dynamics, a more controlled low, more intense tone colours and an even lower noise floor which allowed very softly played instruments and subtle singing voices to float up to the surface. What is this?! Can the experience playing pleasure of the set and the commitment of the listener be improved by applying two sheets of treated aluminium to these devices?! It seems the answer to that question is a definitive “yes”. Several days later I was able to share my experiences. An old school friend who quite likes music, but isn’t a crazy audiophile visited me. He also needed no more than a couple of seconds to determine that the rendering had clearly improved after placing the Equipment Tuning Chips.

### Creative with Chips



Somebody asked me whether you can place such a Chip on the element of a record player. Generally the piece is too heavy and too big for that, but this question did put an idea in my head. The Chip fits exactly on the horizontal surface right above the little record player’s Linn Akito arm’s fulcrum in my study. It looks quite nice and even produces audible effects! Think of a somewhat purer, clearer and spaciously more precise sound. Great! Building on on the thought that the Equipment Tuning Chips mainly improve the music signal I came up with the idea to try them out on the interlink connectors. Those connectors are electrically connected to the outside of the device, so you will not have to make any sacrifices. And indeed; in the small set this turned out to be more effective than placing the Chips on the devices themselves! The effect on the interlink connectors linked to the main set’s record player’s was huge: a better organised sound image with a deeper base foundation was the very welcome result. That it can also go wrong became clear when I applied the two Equipment Tuning Chips to the connectors that bring the signal to the power amp.

At first I was enthusiastic about less sharpness and more rest, but then I noticed that the sound balance had been disrupted: the high tones had more or less died out. As it turns out it's not as if you can blindly scatter a bag of Chips over your set; finding out where this powerful accessory is best applied requires quite some precise work. Finally the Equipment Tuning Chips also work perfectly fine on the connectors of digital cabling. I applied five Equipment Tuning Chips to my home cinema set: on the Ethernet, HDMI, and antenna cables. The improvements to image (colour contrast, sharpness, rest) and sound (details, less sharp) cannot be missed.



### **Conclusion**

The Akiko Audio Tuning Chips are wonderful accessories: they work very well, are quite affordable, look decent and professional, are easy to use and offer the possibilities of far-reaching and refined tuning. Need I say more to recommend this product?!

### **Information**

[www.akikoaudio.com](http://www.akikoaudio.com)

### **Postscript**

Marc van Berlo from Akiko Audio let us know that even the self-adhesive black Chips are built onto a layer of aluminium. This is even the case for the small 5mm Chips.

### **Source:**

[http://www.puresound.be/home/archive/2017/mei/article/equipment-tuning-chip-3d-van-akiko-audio/?tx\\_ttnews%5Bday%5D=13&cHash=eff3b305cb4bb994ec2a8a7ca3933dc4](http://www.puresound.be/home/archive/2017/mei/article/equipment-tuning-chip-3d-van-akiko-audio/?tx_ttnews%5Bday%5D=13&cHash=eff3b305cb4bb994ec2a8a7ca3933dc4)