



Review Akiko Audio Power Conditioner Corelli by Puresound.be

Akiko Audio (based in Maastricht) has provided us with a new descendant to their family of extraordinary tweaks. I think I can safely assume by now that most audiophiles are familiar with Akiko Audio. For the newcomers, Akiko Audio is Marc and Sander van Berlo's brainchild. They are specialised in audio tweaks, or non-electronic enhancers.

Marc had asked me, early on in 2016, whether he could use my set to test out a new conditioner. Of course I am open to such requests, but unfortunately we weren't able to plan the testing. In the meanwhile, however, I was already receiving many lauding messages from other 'testers' of this new descendant: the Akiko Audio Corelli. Marc personally delivered it to me for a review. The Corelli is built into a resonance-free aluminium casing, with an optional silver or black aluminium front. For this review Marc had brought a black model with him.



The Akiko Audio Corelli is neatly packed in a neutral, white box. As opposed to their other accessories it is quite oversized and with a good 6kg it is definitely not a lightweight. If you look on the website (www.akikoaudio.com) you will therefore not find the Corelli in the "Audio Accessories" category. Instead it can be found in the category "Power Equipment". I also believe that's where it belongs.



Of course you also want to see the Corelli on the inside. The Tuning Stick and Triple AC Enhancer made this difficult; you had to break them open, after which they were no longer useable. But that is not the case with the Corelli. Initially it might seem that there are three Triple AC Enhancers inside the casing. Marc told me, however, that the composition of the cylinders' content is actually different. The idea to do this

came from a client in England. Together with him they worked out the idea, which resulted in the Corelli

Everything has been made resonance free by casting it in cleverly: the amount of casting mass has been measured for optimal results. Moreover, the aluminium front has been energetically treated and the top cover only just fits, so it can't resonate. If you wish to remove it, you won't only need a screwdriver but a suction pad as well. Otherwise you'll damaging it trying to get it off.

As neat as the Corelli looks on the outside, it has been taken care of on the inside. This should be a leading example to many manufactures.



The Akiko Audio works like a passive filter, without any of the disadvantages. Hence it should be connected as such. There is a mains input connection, but no mains output. The Corelli is connected to the other audio equipment by connecting a power cable to an available socket. I advise taking the matching HQ cable Akiko Audio offers at a combined price. During testing it became clear that this cable increases the Corelli's improvements even more compared to a standard computer power cable.

My first listening experience was baffling. I had taken out my Triple AC Enhancer and placed the Corelli before the power amplifier. Unconnected first of all. Nonetheless the Corelli's influence was noticeable. When I did eventually connect the Corelli the effect it had on the rendering was astounding. The middle became more brilliant, but not disruptive. The high came across fresher, but wasn't too sharp. In the past we'd put together a test CD with the help of a well-known audio forum. The first track on that CD is the record version of Get Back by The Beatles, which starts with some sounds of nature. Thanks to the Corelli the bee becomes much more present, the birds chirping in the background much clearer and transparent. More "lifelike" you could say.

This shows the increased micro detail in the rendering. As mentioned above, the rendering of the low also increases. On my set I gained an octave thanks to the increase in micro detail, which made finesses clearer and prevented the rendering from getting smeared together.

A good example of this is the title track of Portrait of a Groove by Bluezeum. For me this remains a fixed value, because the Fender Jazz bass and a bass clarinet continually run through each other. You should be able to hear both licks separately, but if your system isn't up for it you'll hear a low pounding without definition and positioning. The Akiko Audio Corelli made the separation even clearer and cleaner.

Conclusion:

With the Corelli Akiko Audio has once again put a top product on the market. Its effect is amazing on a set that is able to make differences audible. I wouldn't recommend the Corelli for a less selective set; you're better off with a Triple AC Enhancer there considering the Corelli's price tag.

The Akiko Audio Corelli costs € 1795,- and comes with an optional silver or black front cover. The combined price with an Akiko Audio Powercord HQ Gold is € 1945,-.

Prices:

Akiko Audio Corelli	€ 1795,-
Akiko Audio Powercord HQ Gold	€ 169,-
Akiko Audio Corelli + Powercord HQ Gold	€ 1945,-
Akiko Audio Triple AC Enhancer:	€ 295,-

More information at www.akikoaudio.com

Additional information by John van Polen

I connected my Corelli to the first power strip in the living room that is directly connected to a separate group in the meter cupboard. This powers my large stereo set as well as the TV corner. I fully underline the effects described in the above text and have some small elements to add. By connecting the Corelli, the sound of my home cinema set in the TV corner has become less sharp and the lyrics in video clips have become more audible. Considerably more detail becomes available and the low is significantly faster and tighter. In the high end stereo system the background becomes even quieter and the spaciousness improves even more. Instruments and voices are positioned more precisely while the range doesn't shrink. The sound has become tight and precise; you can hear the hammers of a piano striking the very tightly strung metal strings. The realism is unparalleled. The middle gains more body and the total sound image comes across more supple. In short: it seems more like music! How Marc and Sander van Berlo have been able to achieve this with a machine that does not contain any electrical components is a mystery to me. I consider this a major accomplishment. In my opinion a serious audiophile that wants to get the utmost out of his precious system cannot get around the Corelli. The device is not cheap but considering what it is able to achieve in a top set, it is worth every penny. Finally I would like to point out that the Corelli does need some time to break in. Immediately after connecting it the sound was a bit off, especially in the low, but a month after purchasing it there was no "thickening" at all any more. Even now some selected music clips still seem to become more audible, so maybe the break-in period keeps going on after a month. Highly recommended.