

clash of the Titans

Tony Bolton tries out the new EVO3 version of the IsoTek Titan mains conditioner.

Following on from the recent upgrade of the Sigmas mains conditioner from G2 to EVO3 status, improvements in technology have made their way into the Titan, taking it into EVO3 form as well.

Originally introduced in 2005, the new Titan looks visually similar to its older sibling but contains a whole range of new technologies that have percolated down from the flagship Super Titan. One of these is KERP (Kirchoff's Equal Resistance Path). This was specially developed for the EVO3 products and features equal resistance and equal power delivery to all outlets. The internal wiring has been upgraded from that of the old model and is now made from UP-OCC (Ultra Pure-Ohno Continuous

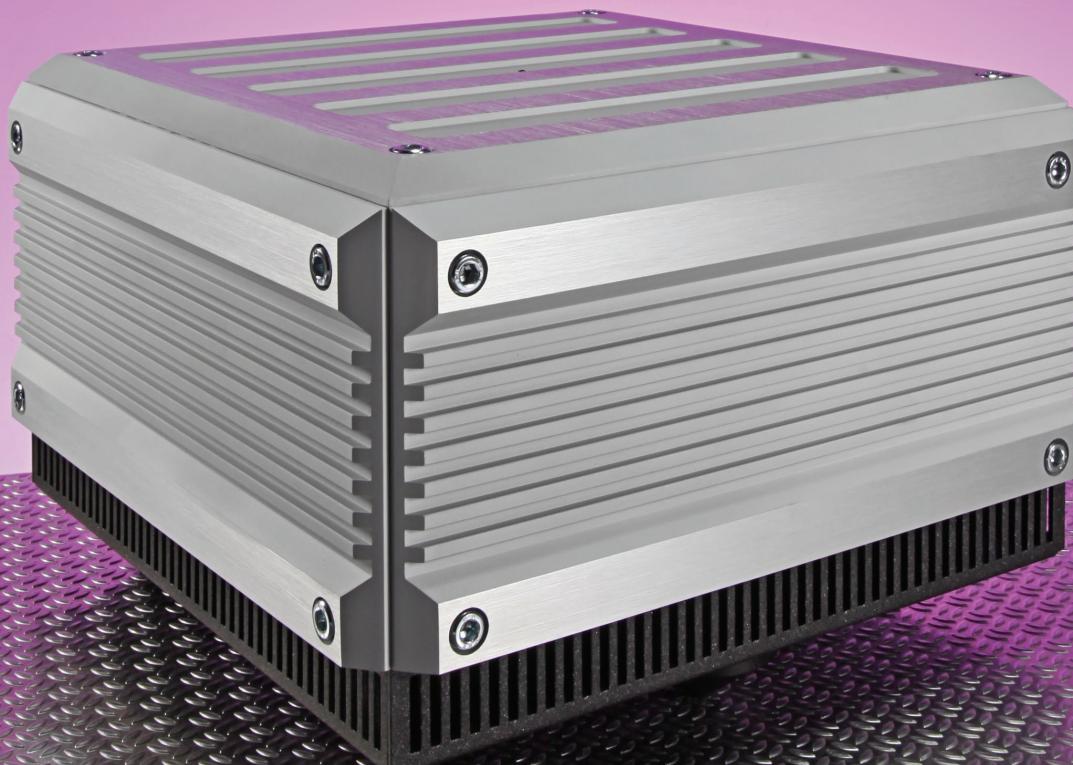
Cast) high purity copper solid core cabling. This is silver-plated before being coated with Teflon. A fine Teflon tube is wound helically around the wire before it is covered with an extruded Teflon tube, thus creating an air gap between the wire and the tube to form an air dielectric which has virtually no capacitance.

A pyramid of VDR (Voltage Dependent Resistor) devices provide 112,500A of instantaneous protection from surges and spikes. This is combined with the ability to deliver up to 4,600W of continuous power with up to 25,000W transient ability, if the power supply permits this. Alongside there is a nine-stage Direct Coupled conditioning network in a series parallel configuration that delivers extremely low impedance and high current power.

The filter system removes both common mode and differential mode noise with increases of 600% and 20% respectively over the previous model. RFI is reduced by 82dB (50 Ohms standard) down to 5Hz frequency range.

All of this technology is housed in an alloy case that measures 275w x 182.5h x 275d and weighs 17kg. The casework can be finished in either the silver of this example or black. IsoTek's EVO3 Premier power cable, fitted with a 16A C 19 IEC conductor is supplied.

There are two 13A power outlets on one side of the case, alongside the power switch. Beside these there is an IEC mains input and a Neutrik socket for the output to either the multiway six output socket bar that is available



for £725 or to the Sigmas EVO3 which can be attached to the Titan EVO3 to provide power to source components.

Since the previous model could only use the six-way socket unit, I first listened to the new Titan with the same socket bar plugged in that had been attached to my G2 Titan.

I started listening with one of my favourite CDs, Morcheeba's 'Big Calm', and found myself being pleasantly surprised by the new levels of detail and texture that flowed from the speakers. The bass, in particular, seemed to go far deeper than previously but with added layers of colour and shape to it. Skye's velvety smooth voice also gained layers of detail that made it seem more rounded and naturally shaped, helping to increase the sensation of realism in the sound.

Turning to vinyl produced some real surprises. On one of

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my favourite versions of the '1812 Overture' featuring real canon and a carillon adding sonic fireworks, the EVO3 Titan delivered these with so much bass energy during the canon shots that I was almost scared for the safety of the subwoofer cones.

I also fired up the Nakamichi Dragon and found a freshness to the sound of a 40-plus year old cassette that I would never have thought possible before experiencing the new version of the Titan.

After this I moved the Sigmas EVO3 downstairs from the other system and wired it in using the EVO3 Optimum cable supplied for such purposes (the Elite cable is also available).

This time I was really quite gobsmacked at the difference in the sound. The canon shot sounded like

a real explosion taking place in my sitting room, while the carillon rang out loud and clear with the strike of the hammer on each of the bells seeming to be defined throughout their cascade of ringing. Even an elderly cassette showed big sonic improvements with a far more projected image of Dusty in fine form, covering the Little Anthony and the Imperials track 'It Was Easier to Hurt Him'. Morcheeba's CD gained in depth, tonal colour and a seemingly

The Titan EVO3 is supplied with an IsoTek EVO3 Premier mains lead



I can only congratulate IsoTek on this product. It is nothing short of superb and once you have heard its effect upon a system I am positive that you will be in the market for one as well.



The blue switch in the middle of the casework acts as the main power on and off control.

MUSIC USED

Tchaikovsky. '1812 Festival Overture Op.49' (Original scoring). Antal Dorati conducting the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. University of Minnesota Brass Band. Bronze canon, Douay, France (1775). Bells of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon, The Riverside Church. Spoken Commentary by Deems Taylor. Mercury Olympian Series Records. AMS 16010. 1959.

Dusty Springfield. 'Ev'rything's Coming Up Dusty'. Philips. CPP 1002. 1965.

Morcheeba. 'Big Calm.' Indochina Records. ZENO17CDX. 1998.

SYSTEM USED

Clearaudio Master Solution turntable, Magnify arm, Benz Micro Wood SL cartridge. Leema Acoustics Agena phonostage, Tucana II amplifier and Antilla 2S ECO CD player. Nakamichi Dragon cassette player. Chario Ursa Major loudspeakers.

far tighter grasp of rhythm.

Just occasionally a product comes along that is so far ahead of its predecessor in all areas of performance that an upgrade to the new unit is essential, and the EVO3 Titan is just such a product. I thought the performance of the G2 Titan was already first class and am amazed at just how much this could actually be improved upon. The addition of the EVO3 Sigmas to the ensemble took it up another level to the point where I am now unable to contemplate going back to using my system in its previous form. There are some upgrades that, once heard, cannot be lived without and I am somehow going to have to find the wherewithall to ensure that this combination of mains conditioners stays permanently in residence.

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ISOTEK TITAN EVO3 MAINS CONDITIONER £2695



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best

VERDICT

A very successful upgrade of the G2 Titan that is superb on its own but excels when connected to the EVO3 Sigmas

FOR

- very deep and detailed bass
- near holographic imaging
- fluid and natural timing
- micro-details in sound

AGAINST

- nothing, not even price

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