


Power Up

IsoTek's new entry-level power cable has the ability to boost your system, says Jon Myles.



conductors arranged in a parallel construction with a slight rotational twist to help reject RFI and EMI interference. These are shielded in a polyethylene dielectric while a cotton filler is also used to enhance internal strength and reduce microphony.

Power cables can be something of a conundrum. There's no doubt replacing the stock lead supplied with your CD player, amplifier, pre-amp or tuner with a specialised model can make a difference to sound quality. But at the top end prices can seem prohibitively expensive compared to the benefits.

So enter IsoTek's new EVO3 Initium that retails at a realistic £64.95 for a 1.5 metre length and promises to deliver an upgrade to your system.

IsoTek, of course, are no newcomers to supplying clean power to hi-fi systems, having a well-regarded range of conditioners, mains blocks and cables all designed and manufactured in Europe.

The EVO3, however, is its entry-level mains cable bringing the price of ownership down to a new level. Having said that, it is still handsomely constructed, consisting of three 99.9999% oxygen-free copper

IsoTek also fits its own bespoke connectors featuring oxygen-free copper conductors with nickel plating.

In practice it's a hefty cable compared to the stock black leads you get with most components but it is flexible enough to fit into tight spaces behind racks and has a reassuring air of quality about its construction.

SOUND QUALITY

I started out using the IsoTek into an Oppo BDP-105D universal disc player – replacing the stock lead. The Oppo is no slouch as a top-class

player but the EVO3 managed to up its game.

Sliding in New Order's 'Substance' CD and there was a palpable cleaning up of the sound with a seemingly lower noise floor and a greater sense of musical flow. Tracks such as 'Bizarre Love Triangle', for example, were possessed of greater depth and punch. Bass lines, especially, dug deeper but the midband also had more clarity.

Moving the cable onto a Creek Evolution 100A integrated amplifier brought even more benefits. Listening to Olivier Messiaen's 'Quartet For The End Of Time' the EVO3 brought a delicacy and an air and space around the instruments I'd not heard before. The violin and cello lines had extra timbre and resonance sounding much more natural and lifelike. It

was an improvement that matched some power cables costing many times more than the IsoTek.

As such I'd recommend that if you are looking to buy a single EVO3 then experiment with using it between your source and amplifier to see where it gives the greatest improvement. Alternatively, and better still, if funds allow go for at least two.

CONCLUSION

At £64.95 the IsoTek EVO3 Initium is one of the most cost-effective power cable upgrades you can make. It has the ability to improve both source components and amplifiers at a price that won't break the bank. As such it comes highly recommended.

**ISOTEK EVO3
INITIUM**
£64.95



**OUTSTANDING - amongst
the best**

VERDICT
**Fine sound at a low price
- a worthwhile upgrade.**

FOR
- improves musical flow
- lower noise floor
- quality connections

AGAINST:
- nothing at the price

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