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4. Loudspeaker Position & Adjustmen

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9. Stereo Image Depth – Intro

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15. Eric Bibb: John Henry

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17. Dan & The Electros: Shaken Not Stirred

18. Eva Taylor: Everybody Loves My Baby

19. Omnibus Wind Ensemble:
Dog Breath Variations/Uncle Meat
(Frank Zappa)

20. Matthias Wager: Toccata and Fugue in D-Minor (J.S. Bach)



Isotek® The Ultimate System Set-Up Disc
www.isoteksystems.com

20 tracks to help set up, test and fine-tune your audio system

featuring music from

opus 3



IsoTek is the world's leading brand of specialised power management products for hi-fi and home cinema systems. The company's founder and managing director is Keith Martin (pictured above), a man whose vision has led to dozens of awards from respected audio critics worldwide.

www.isoteksystem.com

Introducing 'The Ultimate System Set-Up Disc' from IsoTek

Two award-winning names in high-performance audio join forces to help you make the most of your audio system

Buying a hi-fi system is only the start – if you want to make the most of its sound, it is vital to ensure that it is set up correctly. That's where this disc comes in...

Compiled by IsoTek, with specially selected music from the legendary Opus3 audiophile record label, *The Ultimate System Set-Up Disc* is designed to make sure your audio system is ready to perform at its best. It is both practical and easy to use, containing 20 tracks to test and fine-tune key elements of two-channel system performance.

The disc begins by testing stereo and phase, with further tests for basic speaker positioning, then stereo and front-to-back soundstage depth. These tracks (1 to 12) will help you to fine-tune the way your system is set up, in order to optimise its performance.

Tracks 13 and 14 provide a frequency range test – a useful way to examine the bandwidth that your system is able to deliver. The disc then concludes with six music tracks that have been specially selected from the Opus3 catalogue, each one capturing a certain quality associated with two-channel replay, be it timing, atmosphere, soundstaging, dynamics or bass depth.

Together, this mix of music, sounds and voices will help you make the most of your audio system. Happy listening!



▲ FULL SYSTEM POWER CONDITIONING BAR

ISOTEK SIRIUS



Founded in Sweden by Jan-Eric Persson (pictured left), Opus3 is an independent record company dedicated to recording and producing timeless music in authentic surroundings. Since its formation in 1976, the label has cultivated an exceptional reputation for superbly natural and accurate recordings, winning a multitude of awards.

www.opus3records.com

Stereo test & tune-up tracks



Introduction

The CD begins with a short audio guide to the disc and how to use it.

1



Channel evaluation

Using spoken voice, this track helps to identify whether a system has been correctly wired and tests its ability to deliver a stereo image.

2



Phase test

This track can be used to test whether the speakers have been correctly wired and are in phase.

3



Loudspeaker position & adjustment

Using a combination of spoken voice and a castanet, this track helps you to position your speakers in order to obtain a perfect stereo image.

4



Soundstage test

Beginning with an introduction (track 5) and continuing with the test itself (track 6), this track helps you to fine-tune the soundstage.

5 & 6



360-degree test

Beginning with an introduction (track 7) and continuing with the test itself (track 8), this is the ultimate test of stereo performance – when set up correctly, a high-quality audio system should deliver the impression of complete immersion within the stereo soundstage.

7 & 8



Stereo image depth test

Track 9 explains and illustrates the principles of stereo image depth. Track 10 once again uses voice and castanet to help you determine whether your system's image is symmetrical in terms of both width and depth. Track 11 presents a similar test to track 10, but in a different format to make repeated listening and adjustment simpler. Finally, track 12 demonstrates how multiple sound sources can coexist clearly within a full two-dimensional stereo image.

9 & 10

11 & 12



Frequency range test

In addition to stereo set-up and loudspeaker positioning (tracks 4 to 12), we've included a frequency range test that examines the bandwidth of your system. Track 13 starts at 20Hz and progressively increases in frequency every 10 seconds to 20kHz. Track 14 commences at 20kHz before decreasing back to the starting frequency of 20Hz. The spot frequencies covered are 20Hz, 43Hz, 93Hz, 200Hz, 430Hz, 930Hz, 2000Hz, 4300Hz, 9300Hz and 20000Hz.

13 & 14

Music test tracks



15

Eric Bibb

JOHN HENRY (TRAD./ARR. BY ERIC BIBB)

Taken from the album *Blues, Ballads & Work Songs* [Opus3 SACD 22111]

This track is taken from the 2011 album *Blues, Ballads & Work Songs* by Eric Bibb, Opus3's most famous artist. In order to produce an authentic live sound, the recording was made using an AKG C-24 valve stereo microphone feeding the Opus3 valve mic preamp, plus the Coles Electroacoustics 4038 bi-directional ribbon mic for the Vox amp.

Use to test: delivery of atmospheric detail



16

Tiny Island

VAQUERO (TINY ISLAND)

Taken from the album *Tiny Island* [Opus3 SACD 19824]

Using the natural acoustical reverberation of an old stone church, this track features five musicians recorded with a stereo microphone adjusted to crossed figure of eights (the Blumlein technique). Starting with a rainstick that's joined by a steel guitar, *Vaquero* delivers a sound that is only possible when recording in an authentic environment – a method that has become synonymous with Opus3.

Use to test: soundstage depth and width



17

Dan & The Electros

SHAKEN NOT STIRRED (B. ÖSTLUND)

Taken from the album *It's Never Too Late* [Opus3 SACD 22091]

This studio recording pays homage to the early 1960s, without suffering from the technical limitations of the time. An authentic sound is created with the help of vintage RCA 44A ribbon microphones made in 1934, perfect for the tenor sax, with an AKG C-24 valve stereo mic hung overhead for the drums.

Use to test: timing and dynamics



18

Eva Taylor

EVERYBODY LOVES MY BABY (PALMER-WILLIAMS)

Taken from the album *Eva Taylor Live at the Pawnshop* [Opus3 SACD 22071]

It was a magical evening at the Pawnshop in Stockholm in 1976 when legendary singer Eva Taylor dazzled her live audience with this classic rendition. A former vocalist with Louis Armstrong's band in the 1920s, Taylor brought a lifetime of experience to this astonishing live performance, captured forever in this spellbinding recording.

Use to test: atmosphere and soundstage



19

Omnibus Wind Ensemble

DOG BREATH VARIATIONS/UNCLE MEAT (FRANK ZAPPA)

Taken from the album *Music by Frank Zappa* [Opus3 SACD 19423]

This reinterpretation of music written and originally performed by Frank Zappa displays all the musical complexities for which Zappa is famed. The 12-piece Omnibus Wind Ensemble is captured here in a medium-size, wooden-walled concert hall, delivering a live and authentic timbre – a stunning recording of an extraordinary performance.

Use to test: soundstage depth and width



20

Matthias Wager

TOCCATA AND FUGUE IN D MINOR (J.S. BACH)

Taken from the album *Organ Treasures* [Opus3 SACD 22031]

This piece is a classic bass test – the organ reaches down to 30Hz. The recording was made using the Thureson CM-504 condenser stereo microphone, which besides its fantastic resolution has a frequency linearity that is second to none, facilitating the recording's exceptional dynamic range and perfectly captured church acoustics.

Use to test: bass depth and dynamic range

Building the foundations of great sound

It's vital to set up your audio system correctly to ensure it's performing at its best, and this disc will help you to achieve that goal. But did you know that its performance is also affected by the electricity you feed it?

Mains power is the first input into any audio system – it's the raw material from which the resulting sound is made – yet it's polluted by numerous contaminants. We are constantly bathed in a sea of RFI and EMI, which corrupts the electricity supply and degrades the performance of audio components. What's more, all the electrical items we use in our homes, from computers to washing machines, affect the supply and erode our systems' potential. For audio lovers, it's a serious problem. The solution? IsoTek.

The improvements delivered by IsoTek power conditioners are immediate and emphatic. The noise floor drops and the sound gains greater focus, with reduced grain and improved clarity. Bass is tighter and better defined, treble gains space and 'air', and the overall musical performance appears more solid and dynamic, and hence more 'real'.

An IsoTek mains conditioner doesn't just upgrade one component in your audio system; it enhances the performance of everything: source components, amplifiers, every piece of mains-powered electronics in your set-up. Without IsoTek, you are inhibiting your system's sound and thus your musical enjoyment – that's why an IsoTek power conditioner is the most important, most cost-effective upgrade you are ever likely to make.

Discover IsoTek and unleash your system's full potential. You'll be glad you did.



"The lift in performance is quite remarkable"

IsoTek Aquarius Hi-Fi Choice



FULL SYSTEM POWER CONDITIONER >

ISOTEK AQUARIUS

The power conditioning specialist

"A revelation"

What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision

"IsoTek is the leader in mains conditioning products"

Hi-Fi News

"Not all mains conditioners are created equal... IsoTek delivers the sonic goods"

H-Fi World

"IsoTek is the UK's biggest name in mains filtration"

Hi-Fi Choice

There are IsoTek components to suit every pocket and every system, from entry-level to ultra-high-end. All are manufactured in Europe, designed for purpose and built to last, with a host of technological 'firsts' between them. There's KERF®, for example, which delivers a more coherent sound because it enables a pure, symmetrical signal path, and Adaptive Gating®, which tailors the filtering to suit each piece of equipment to perfection.

No other company can replicate IsoTek's bespoke filtering circuits, unrivalled levels of protection and ability to enhance sound quality, born through extensive research and painstaking attention to detail. Truly, in the world of power conditioning, IsoTek is unique.



ULTIMATE DC CANCELLING POWER CABLE ▶
ISOTEK SYNCRO



2008 What Hi-Fi?
Best All-Rounder
Ultimate Guide
IsoTek Gt Mini-Sub



2006 Best Buy
IsoTek Sigma



2008 What Hi-Fi?
Best Cost-No-Object
Ultimate Guide
IsoTek Titan



2008 Hi-Fi Choice
Silver Award
IsoTek Sigma



2010 What Hi-Fi?
Best Product
Ultimate Guide to TV
IsoTek Vision



2010 Hi-Fi World
5-Globe Winner
IsoTek Aquarius



2006 T.A.S.
Editors Choice
Nordost Thor by IsoTek



2006 Hi-Fi News
Category Winner
IsoTek Sigma



2006 Hi-Fi News
Product of the Year
IsoTek Sigma



2006 Hi-Fi Choice
Category Winner
IsoTek Sigma



2007 Hi-Fi Choice
Editors Choice
IsoTek Audio Grade IEC



2007 Hi-Fi Choice
Category Winner
IsoTek Sigma



2004 Hi-Fi Plus
Category Winner
Nordost Thor by IsoTek



2005 What Hi-Fi?
IsoTek Gamma-B-Way



2005 Hi-Fi Choice
Editors Choice
Nordost Thor by IsoTek



2005 What Hi-Fi?
IsoTek Titan



2005 Hi-Fi News
Category Winner
IsoTek Titan



2005 Hi-Fi Review
Product of the Year
Hong Kong
IsoTek Titan



2003 Hi-Fi Choice
Category Winner
IsoTek Mini Sub (Jmk1)



2003 Hi-Fi News
Category Winner
IsoTek Mini Sub (Jmk1)



2004 What Hi-Fi?
IsoTek Gt Vision



2004 Hi-Fi Choice
Category Winner
IsoTek Gt Mini Sub



2004 What Hi-Fi?
Category Winner
IsoTek Gt Vision



2010 Hi-Fi Plus
Highly Commended
IsoTek Aquarius



2002 Hi-Fi News
Category Winner
IsoTek Substation



2003 What Hi-Fi?
IsoTek Mini Sub (Jmk1)



2003 Hi-Fi Choice
Editors Choice
IsoTek Mini Sub (Jmk1)



2003 What Hi-Fi?
Category Winner
IsoTek Gt Mini Sub



2006 What Hi-Fi?
IsoTek Full System
Enhancer CD



2007 Sound & Vision
Category Winner
Hungary
IsoTek Full Mini Sub

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