

Caig DeoxIT D5 cleaner

It probably comes as no surprise to people that it is vitally important that metal to metal contacts are kept as clean as possible. Audio systems are full of such contacts ranging from mains plugs through to plugs and sockets on interconnect and speaker cables. It is easy to appreciate that an imperfect contact can lead to resistance at least and rectification and noise at worst – highly undesirable unless you are building a ‘cats-whisker’ radio! Certainly, cleanliness is next to quietness in the world of audio.

Caig DeoxIT, available from **Russ Andrews**, is an excellent solution for cleaning surface oxides from mains plugs; interconnect and speaker cable connectors, as well as moving parts such as volume controls. The cleaner works by dissolving oxides and sulphides that form on metal contact surfaces and thus removing those sources of resistance. This restores the contact’s integrity and also leaves a thin organic layer that coats and protects the metal. Special additives prevent the dissolved oxides from re-attacking the metal surface. These additives keep the oxides in suspension and allows them to be easily dispersed by the mechanical action of the contact.

In use

Following a mass cleaning session with my system, not forgetting the mains fuses, I found that it had completely eliminated the odd noisy connection I had. One crackly RCA phono connection in particular was now, I’m pleased to say, completely silent during a test ‘wiggle’! Only a small amount is required, so a can of this size will keep your system in tip-top condition for years. Great value and an essential investment for any audio system. **NR**



DETAILS

PRICE: ~~£12~~

CONTACT:

WEBSITE:

RUSSELL ANDREWS

OUR VERDICT



Mains Cables R Us Audiolab M-DAC power supply

It was always going to happen, the question was *when*? Last year at the Munich show John Westlake told me he was doing an external power supply for his superb M-DAC in 2013, but Mains Cables R Us has got in first by a good many months, I suspect. Designed and built in conjunction with Longdog audio, it’s an external split rail fully regulated linear design, built in the UK by engineer and audiophile Nick Gorham. Although not quite a perfect visual match, it doesn’t look out of place nearby, although lacks the aesthetic purity of the Audiolab, as well as its all-of-a-piece feel. It sports a Furutech gold-plated IEC power inlet and Furutech fuse as standard, to which any IEC power lead can be fitted.

In use

First, some gripes – the blue LED is a bit bright and the captive power lead is too short. At the other end of the captive lead, the small multi-pin DIN power socket going into the M-DAC didn’t inspire confidence either. However, when the wee Audiolab DAC finally got going with the MCRUs power supply, it was a game changer. The stock DAC is superb at the price, but this add-on PSU makes it just plain *superb*.

Suddenly it was as if a layer of grime had been wiped away from the recording. Things flowed in a more natural way, and tonally the new power supply proved a revelation – a slight metallic feel to the M-DAC’s upper midband melted away to reveal a richer, warmer and more fulsome sound. Bass improved noticeably, surprising considering the fine quality of the original. Soundstaging widened and deepened too. Overall then, this is a brilliant sonic upgrade to an already excellent DAC. **DP**

DETAILS

PRICE: £360

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OUR VERDICT

