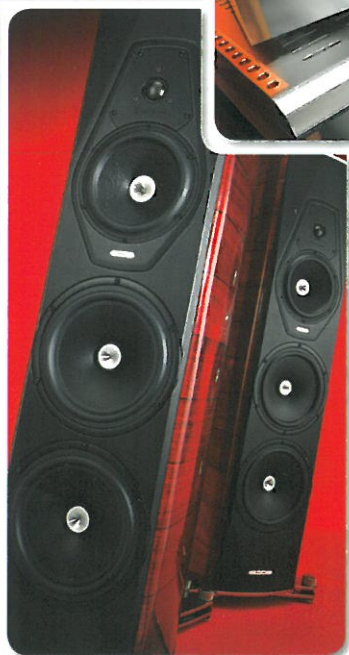


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IsoTek Super Titan

The original Titan seemed to be as good as it got – then along came Super Titan

Awesome is a somewhat overworked adjective when it comes to hi-fi. It's routinely applied to products that (while impressive) do not fully deserve such a description. But with IsoTek's Super Titan, awesome is for once fully justified. Its massive size, 'battleship' build quality and amazing performance deserve nothing less.

Looking like a big power amp, IsoTek's Super Titan stands about 30cm tall and measures around 50cm square. It weighs an impressive 30kg and has four power outlets using silver-plated 32-amp Neutrik connectors. It's capable of delivering 9,200 watts of continuous power. Wow!

Transient power delivery is around 35,500 watts, with a constant current delivery of 32 amps. Basically, the Super Titan offers a doubling over the company's highly regarded Titan model; twice the power, twice as much filtering and double the number of power outlets. If that's not truly awesome, what is?

There's no doubt that mains quality is a serious limiting factor when it comes to sound quality. Like contaminated petrol in a car, mains noise and distortion has an adverse effect on performance, meaning your equipment operates below its full potential. The result is poorer sound quality. The solution? A mains purification device that deals effectively with noise issues without restricting current delivery.

Super Titan came into existence because there was nothing being made to partner really big high-current power amplifiers. So, first and foremost, this mains conditioner was designed and built to address this specific need. We used our review sample with a system that included a Musical Fidelity kW750 power amp. This gives a meaty 750 watt output, with more than double this into lower impedances. But, while the kW750 is a large and powerful amplifier, the Super Titan is intended for much bigger fare than this. With its massive reserves, it's even suitable for some of the huge American behemoths.

Now, this might imply Super Titan is a niche product, aimed only at those with big powerful systems and wallets to match. But it's also usable with smaller set-ups. Having such vast current capability means there's almost no limiting effect on available power – a fault that can and does afflict smaller power conditioners.

Having vast headroom means superb transient detail and no restriction of dynamics. While aiming to provide clean, pure mains, IsoTek is committed to designing units that do not act as a limiter in terms of current delivery. Super Titan is the ultimate expression of this approach to design.

But, does one really need a product like this? Is it necessary to go to such extremes? Of course, if you're a rich audiophile with a big system and money to burn, then investing in something like Super Titan won't be an issue. But what about those of us with smaller systems? Do we need one?

SOUND QUALITY

Annoyingly, the answer turns out to be a resounding 'yes'. Certainly, if your mains quality is badly contaminated with noise and distortion, and you have additional items like computers running off the supply, the improvement in clarity

and detail delivered by a device like this will be bigger than you'd ever imagine.

IsoTek's better mains purification devices, like Super Titan, deal with both differential and common-mode noise, along with RFI and EMI. Each mains outlet is isolated, which prevents cross-contamination. This means that self-noise generated by (say) a large power amp will not affect your preamp or CD player. Subjectively, this means you'll hear a cleaner, more solidly focussed sound that has greater clarity and separation. Depending on how dirty your mains supply is, the music will sound smoother and cleaner, yet crisper and more immediate at the same time. The sound will be noticeably more refined and effortless.

We'd say Super Titan will improve the sound of any hi-fi system it's used with. It will allow you to hear exactly how your equipment is performing. Moreover, the improved clarity and separation will allow you to fine-tune your hi-fi system as never before.

"Your music will sound smoother, cleaner and much more immediate"

You'll find that certain 'difficult' or disappointing recordings suddenly sound a whole lot better – in some cases, the improvement will be so great, you'll wonder how and why they could ever have sounded so bad. Lastly, your system will sound consistently good, regardless of when you listen.

Although Super Titan takes up quite a bit of floor space, it's otherwise undemanding. It doesn't get warm during normal use and it's whisper-quiet. Even with an ear close-by, there's no hum or buzz to be heard. So you can place it near to where you sit, without having to worry about mechanical noise or heat dissipation.

Our home mains supply is actually quite clean and we already use a high quality PS Audio Premiere mains conditioner. Even so, Super Titan resulted in an audible improvement. Be warned – don't mess with Super Titan unless you have the cash!

Jimmy Hughes

