

Akiko Audio Triple AC Enhancer

Akiko Audio keeps supplying the audio world with new accessories that deserve to be noticed, or better yet, heard. After testing the regular AC tuning stick it is now time for the Triple AC Enhancer. In essence the same tuning device, except that it has become an oversized rod.

Hifi Maastricht

During a visit to Hifi Maastricht I heard that Akiko Audio was developing the Tuning Stick AC (whose review can be read on the site) further. The prototype had already been tested by Hifi Maastricht and owner Jack Akkermans said it was promising. I was already impressed by the regular Tuning Stick AC, so when I heard this news I immediately contacted Marc van Berlo of Akiko Audio to ask him for the newly dubbed Triple AC Enhancer as soon as it had gone into production.

Early September it was finally time. Marc handed me the very first one, from a series of six.

Triple AC Enhancer



I immediately unpacked the Triple AC Enhancer and carefully checked every detail. As has been said before the stick is quite a lot bigger than the Tuning Stick AC. Instead of a small cable there are now three cables, neatly woven into a strand of about 15 centimetres, that come together in a beautiful Akiko Audio Schuko Gold plug. The normal Tuning Stick AC comes with a regular plug. The Triple AC Enhancer is also quite a lot heavier. It weighs almost half a kilo, 650 grams to be precise. You might want to consider placing your power strip on the floor, if it isn't already, as those 650 grams put quite the strain on the cables. The power strip could also be pulled out of place if you use a 'normal' powerstrip such as a Sunleiste. However, if you are the lucky owner of an Akiko Audio Powerbase Quattro power strip you don't need to worry.

Don't mistake this stick for the next parallel net filter. In fact, it doesn't even contain filter components such as condensers and coils. The stick is filled solely with an ingenious mix of natural minerals.

The difference between the Triple AC Enhancer and the AC Tuning Stick



Enough about sizes and weights, let's get to the bottom of what it's all about: the difference between the Triple AC Enhancer and the AC Tuning Stick. If you have read our review on the latter, you'll know that we at Puresound were quite impressed by this gem's accomplishments. The Triple AC Enhancer does the same, but better. Voices sound more natural, instruments are placed even more precisely, wood sounds even 'woodier', the low rolls off even better and seems to go even deeper and the rendering is even more plastic.

Impressions

This can be clearly heard in Nils Lofgren's 'Keith Don't Go'. A track that everybody most likely knows as it is regularly used for demonstration purposes. Nils is even more clearer on the foreground, the stage is deeper and his guitar sounds even livelier.

In Yazoo's 12" 'Situation' the low falls more into place and the demarcations are clearer. It may be a synthetic low, but that doesn't spoil the fun. It goes even deeper and resonates into the floor.

This can also be heard in Jimmy Bowskill's 'Far From Reality'. Jimmy really hits you where it hurts, a real wow-effect! In Trentemöller's 'Take Me Into Your Skin' an annoying 'crack' can be heard. If you didn't know it was part of the set you'd think your set was kicking the bucket. The crack is even more realistic, making you turn down the volume immediately and check your speakers for a fault.

Finally I played Allan Taylor's 'Colour To The Moon'. Beautiful how Allan floats through the room. The guitar play is so realistic you believe yourself to be playing.

If you remove the Triple AC Enhancer everything of course still sounds beautiful, just less so.

Conclusion

These are the accessories you really can't miss. The normal AC Tuning Stick does much, but with the Triple AC Enhancer you get that little bit extra. In my previous review I finished by calling the Tuning Stick AC a keeper, unfortunately I have to come back on that statement, as it has been replaced by the Triple AC Enhancer.



Written by: Mister Roger Poulussen, English translation of the original review.