

Re: Power Conditioners Necessary?

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- *From:* "Mr. Land" <graftonfot@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 16 Mar 2008 06:20:59 -0700 (PDT)
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On Mar 16, 6:58 am, "William Sommerwerck" <grizzledgee...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Mr. Land" <grafton...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:cc539fcf-56e9-4e7b-9eff-e1b5cdb0877@xx

I'm talking about salespeople who could talk an entire morning about how a pair of speakers sounded, never using terminology that approached anything that could be measured by a technician.

Would you select a loudspeaker solely on the basis of its measurements?

Of course not. What I meant to convey was a basic difference in approach that seemed to exist between the salesmen and the technicians. I could have given a better example – perhaps that of a salesman bringing us a receiver of one of his more affluent customers and telling us to fix it because its "imaging" is off. Right. Let me get my "imaging" meter...

These folks could supposedly discern the difference in sound quality of a *tonearm* (not the cartridge, not the turntable, not the connecting cables, but just the tonearm, for heaven's sake).

You could, too. It's not difficult. The arm is mechanical system, and number, strength, and damping of its resonances affect the way it colors the sound. If you don't believe this, mount the same pickup in a modest arm (such as a Dual) and in a really good arm. You should easily hear the difference on pops and clicks.

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Pops and clicks aside, and speaking only of the tonal quality of the music, I don't doubt for a second that the mechanical characteristics of a tonearm would have some non-zero effect on how the overall mass (arm, cartridge) reacts to movements of the stylus – but I can't imagine these differences from one arm to the next being more than very subtle. I know that I myself could never audibly discern the characteristics all the salemen discussed – nor could any of my colleagues.

With no special equalization in play and at moderate volume, the difference between the ordinary speaker cord and the Monster cables was marked, even to my untrained, non-audiophile ears. I was shocked... I even returned to relisten periodically just to make sure I wasn't hearing things myself. I even took the display switch apart to make sure they weren't cheating.

Let me stand on the other side of the issue. Did you try listening blind? For example, have another employee pick regular or Monster cable without your knowing, then listen to a few recordings to decide which was in use. If the Monster cable had a distinctively different "sound", you should be able to recognize its sound, even without direct comparison.

We sure did! We tried different audio sources, different volumes, and different test subjects (all skeptics like myself.) All blind tests. As I said, the difference was quite discernable, to everyone.

As I said, I was shocked. If I hadn't heard it (repeatedly) with my own ears, you could never have convinced me that the speaker wire could make any difference.

As to the article comparing Monster cable with a coat hanger – I can't recall ever using coat hangers as speaker wires, nor placing my speakers a coat hanger's distance away from the receiver. But if I ever do, I won't waste

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my money on Monster cable.

I've yet to be convinced about speaker cables. I saw one case where a weird speaker cable (Polk Cobra) interacted pathologically with an oddly designed amp (Berning), producing gross overshoot and ringing, which was both plainly audible and visible on a 'scope. But that's a different situation.