



Puritan

PSM136 Studio Master mains purifier

MORE AND MORE people are becoming aware of the importance of a good-quality mains feed to power a home hi-fi system and allow it to perform at its best. There are many items around the home that can pollute the mains supply directly, such as washing machines and fridges, low-energy lighting and dimmer switches, switched-mode power supplies and central heating systems. Also, the electrical wiring and mains leads can act as antennas that pick up mobile phone signals, wi-fi signals, Bluetooth, radio and television transmissions, as well as other forms of noise interference. The situation is further aggravated by issues like AC and DC offsets.

The 39 steps

Enter the PSM136, Puritan Audio Laboratories' top-of-the-range mains purifier unit. The circuitry is designed to 'rebalance' the AC sine wave to remove any DC component to enable equipment transformers to work efficiently and quietly. It boasts 30,000 amps of surge protection and has 39 independent elements of mains purification claimed to remove interference. It also cleans and routes all earth outputs to a single star earth point to further lower the noise floor.

The internal wiring is silver plated OFC copper with PTFE insulation. The device contains two large toroidal chokes and a variety of other components for differential mode filtering across a wide frequency band. Furthermore, each outlet employs a smaller choke, together with other components, to provide common mode filtering and to block any interference between the connected equipment.

It can be supplied with either standard shelf mounting or 2U rackmount facias and is fitted with six 8A outlets that have an individual sprung cover flap over each socket. The purifier can be supplied with all common output sockets, including the standard UK 13A as well as Schuko. It has a 16A



IEC mains input socket and a 1.5m mains cable designed to help absorb vibrations and is screened with the company's proprietary shield, which is designed to dissipate any RFI pick up, rather than dumping it to earth where it might find its way into the signal earth. There is an earth binding post that is connected internally to the star earth point, and this can be used for a tonearm earth connection if desired.

My system is powered via a mains distribution block, so it is an easy job to unplug the block from the mains and connect it to the PSM136 to compare the effects of the device. The first thing I note is a complete absence of the clicks from my refrigerator that become apparent with no mains filters connected in my system. I start off listening to the classic 1960 stereo release of Miles Davis' *Kind Of Blue*. The innate beauty of the recording is far better conveyed with the PSM136 in place. The hi-hat in particular, on *All Blues* is extremely clear, crisp and open. At the other end of the audio frequency spectrum, the

bass is tight and in perfect proportion to the rest of the music.

Next up Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* performed by the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus conducted by André Previn. This half-speed master recording is really expressive and open and there's a greater sense of spaciousness around the instruments. The clarity is also excellent – even when the orchestra and chorus are letting rip in the first movement, the tinkling of the triangle is clear in the background.

Black and blue

With a sonata in G major by Scarlatti played on the harpsichord by George Malcolm, the natural decays of each note contribute to the overall realism of the reproduction. As with Miles Davis' *Kind Of Blue*, the silences between the phrases are inky black, indicating that the noise floor is very low.

This is a well-made and robust unit and the numerous outlets make it highly adept at reducing mains-borne interference from any hi-fi setup. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE

£995

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OUR VERDICT

