

IsoTek EVO3 Elite power cords

by Nicholas Ripley

IsoTek gets power. Every product the company makes is designed to improve the performance of audio equipment by addressing the power somehow. So, it should be logical that IsoTek is the go-to company for power cords. The current range has a 'good, better, best' approach, and the RVO3 Elite tested here represents the 'better' cable in the three-strong range. The brand has been moving from its previous GII range to EVO3, and in power cord terms, this means a seven-core, silver-plated, 6N, oxygen-free copper cable, with each conductor shielded from its compatriots and the outside world by a Teflon FEP dielectric and a cotton filler. These are then wrapped in mylar, further shielded by an earthed oxygen-free copper shield, then jacketed in an outer sleeve of dark yellow/gold PVC. IsoTek's own 24ct gold plated IEC socket is used at the product end, but Furutech plugs are used for UK wall sockets. The result is a thick, but not inflexible, power cable. I received four cables in all, enough to completely power up my system.

Why EVO3 Elite won me over initially had nothing to do with the cable. I've noticed that my system sound frequently 'goes off the boil'. Sometimes it sounds wonderful, sometimes it doesn't. Through a process

of elimination, I found it is directly related to whether I am listening to music by plugging my laptop into the system. If I'm playing LP or a SACD, with no PC in the system, it sounds fine. Even if I'm not listening to computer audio, simply plugging that PC into the same distribution block as the system compromises the sound. I'm faced with three options; buy a newer preamp (I like the one I already have), stop using the computer, or find a way the system can come to terms with 21st Century audio sources. EVO3 Elite facilitates that last option. I can now use my system with or without a computer in the mix without it sounding poor.

In direct sonic terms, when not considering PC deployment, IsoTek's EVO3 Elite also polishes the sound of a component. I played 'Shadows of Time' by Dutilleux [*Correspondences*, DG], a structurally dense piece of modern classical music, and the sound had greater depth and solidity, the treble became less strident and the bass more forceful, but more importantly – and this sounds off – it was as if the music was standing straighter. The more EVO3 Elite I put in the system, the more these effects helped liberate the music and conversely, when you take them out, the hitherto fine sound of the system became that little bit smaller and more tarnished. Impressive stuff. +

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

IsoTek EVO3 Elite power cord: £325/2m.
£85 per additional metre

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