

ACOUPLEX PLUG SCHU

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This “damping interface” for Shuko mains sockets was developed by the British manufacturer MusicWorks, which offers very interesting audio accessories under the name Acouplex.

AcouPlex is a new composite material designed specifically for acoustic insulation. It gives its name to the entire range of MusicWorks accessories.



ORIGIN
Great Britain

PRICE
€ 40, or approximately € 50 (Shuko version)

Plug Schu is a disc 3 cm in diameter and 3 mm thick machined from a sheet of AcouPlex material. It has two holes corresponding exactly to the position of the two main poles of a Shuko mains socket, those of the phase and neutral.

To install it, simply slide it onto the poles of the socket as far as it will go. Its diameter is identical

to that of the socket, and it fits perfectly on the body of the latter.

THE SOUND

At first glance, totally sceptical about the use of this small disc, I installed it on the power cord going from the power strip to the wall socket. If I was going to start,

I might as well start with the source! And instantly, the sound changed. You then must get your head around the fact that you have just slipped a small “plastic” disc between the plug and the bottom of the wall socket and then try to analyse what is happening. As you listen, you can feel a noticeable gain in terms of precision and sharpness. Something positive is undeniably happening, something that improves the intelligibility of the message. Then comes the problem of understanding the phenomenon. You then tell yourself that you are putting a layer of insulation between the socket and the plug. And that not only does it insulate, but a priori, it must also cushion. For the moment, it makes sense. The psychological problem begins when you increase the number of Plug Schu discs. Because with each addition, you feel a difference. It’s not huge, but it’s palpable, and each disc adds its own little something. In the end, when the system is fully treated, the gain is not marginal, but particularly noticeable. It is when you backtrack and remove all these small discs that you realise that they are good for your system. How? Quite simply, by making the sound performance a little more tangible, a little closer to us, quite simply more natural. At each stage, we are a little less in hi-fi and a little more in music.

OUR CONCLUSION

In over 30 years of hi-fi, we have had the opportunity to experiment with many devices ranging from the excellent to the ridiculous. On paper, we do not have all the information to explain how Plug Schu works. What we can tell you, however, is that using them undeniably makes a difference to the sound reproduction of your hi-fi system. So, of course, the lucky ones in this story will be those whose system is minimalist and has few power cords. But those in the other camp will say that the more discs there are, the better it works ;-)

In the end, everyone will be happy! ■

Sur notre nouveau site internet découvrez encore plus de chroniques musicales inédites et variées touchant tous les goûts musicaux, grâce à notre sélection d’albums, pour de longues heures d’écoutes.

De plus, vous y trouverez des news régulièrement mises à jour afin de ne rien rater de l’actualité de la hi-fi. Mais également des bancs d’essai en libre accès issus de nos archives ainsi que certains tests de produits exclusivement publiés sur le site.



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