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LINK

complements & accessories

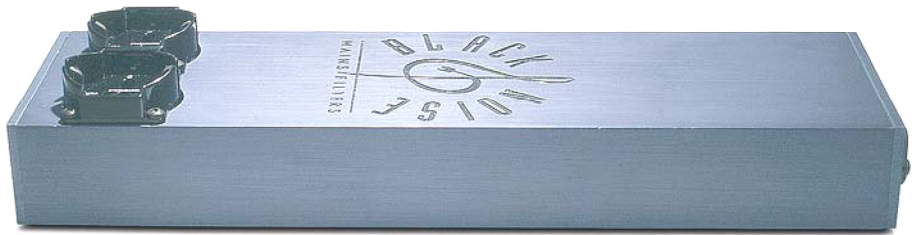
Don't get trapped into the grid

Why go searching cumbersome and expensive remedies when there exist the opportunity for simple and inexpensive improvements? BlackNoise filters fit precisely these needs.

Mains Filters
BLACK NOISE EXTREME AND 500

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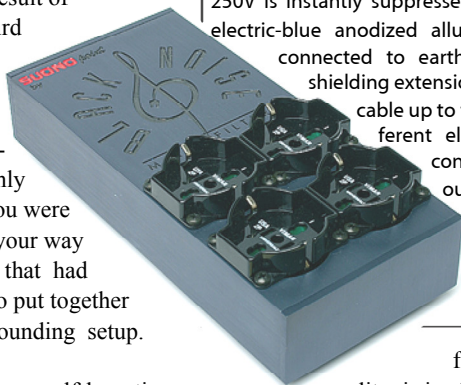
by **Roberto Rocchi**



SUONO and BlackNoise

Systems and Magic has developed especially for SUONO *point* an original version with the aim to optimize cost/quality ratio of their products. This mains distributor has a device to eliminate spikes or random hums overimposed on the grid: every spike over 250V is instantly suppressed. The case is an electric-blue anodized alluminium extrusion connected to earth, so to realize a shielding extension from the mains cable up to the plugs. Four different electronics can be connected to it through excellent quality multistandard outlets.

€ 130,00



SUONO reviewers have the opportunity to answer to the many questions the numerous enthusiastic readers submit to them daily, and it's not hard to find a high percentage of unsatisfied users that have build-up their setup like an electronic puzzle, sometimes with second-hand gear but always at a bargain price; hardware bought just because looked like a big deal. The result of an assembly like that is absurd and fatal, forcing to try to find remedies often worse than the disease. But let's say you have been careful and longsighted, had firmly present in mind the sound you were looking for and had met on your way honest friends and operators that had done their best to help you to put together an equilibrated and nice sounding setup. Well done!

After a while you discover yourself hunting for more details, soundstage, a more convincingly timbre or a bit of deeper dynamic. It's only at this point that accessories come into the game, that's to say those components able to extract from your already good sounding setup subtleties that for some wee glitch didn't get properly through. So now more appropriate stands gets to play a role, peculiar spikes, graphite to rest gear on, better qualified power and signal cables.

But before heading toward improvements this way, it's necessary to have settled the whole setup in the best conditions to extract 100% of it's potential; obviously we have to start from the energy, the engine, or better said from the very source that allows our expensive music machines to dispense music: electric power. You have to know that the electricity has a radical effect over the

final sound and it's quality is in close relation to the quality of the reproduced event. Many enthusiasts are aware of how positive can be the insertion of power conditioners or filters. Systems And Magic is a young italian company that has proposed a line of mains filters that has in the inexpensiveness, the aesthetic value and the quality of results their main goals, without mentioning the guarantee that is assured for five years. The BlackNoise under test are models Extreme and 500, built using a finely brushed anodized electric-blue aluminium extrusion provided with two excellent multistandard outlets. **Model 500 has the mains cable of valuable workmanship, Schuko terminated and provided with a ferrite ring.*** Unit operation is confirmed by a blue led that goes off when the filter overload protection kicks in, enabled again by a manual switch. This model is targeted toward

generic use, with the only precaution of not using it with high-power amps if you don't want the overload protection came alive. Mind you, in the BlackNoise line are also present other models more appropriate for higher loading, model 1000 and 2500. The Extreme, on the other side, is specifically targeted toward CDPs, preamplifiers and phono-preamps; this model shares the same design with the absence of the mains cable, having a IEC inlet instead. Allright, they are cute and cheap (take a look at the price table, *please!*) but what's their sonic effect? Stunning! The feed-back is snapping and leaves no room to doubts. Were you thinking your setup was transparent and had a clean sound? Were you thinking the stage was very deep and sharp? Well you did think wrong for if you insert BlackNoise's in, all these parameters will reach unsuspectable levels and you will get an added value to your gear you probably never hoped to reach.

Sure, power conditioners and filters are already invented accessories and no one want's to sell you vapourware: SUONO intent is to offer just a cue to think over the fact that such accessories generally waste considerable space, almost alike big power-amps, and the price is generally at a premium. BlackNoise instead, are small and cute and can be mistaken for power distributors, being not intrusive at all. Some advice. The improvements in terms of definition, dynamic and stage clarity gets higher with the number of BlackNoise employed, not only so, but their beneficial effect is present even without any electronics directly connected to them, but just by their simple insertion into the mains network. Try then to take them completely away from your setup after a period of happy use: the sound will seem unbearable to listen to and you'll be left with no choice but reinsert them immediately, in this case try to modulate gradually their use and you'll notice a better and better general improvement. A clever choice, inexpensive and with satisfactorily results: what do you want more?