


Impressions: Robinson's Brutus Awards for 2020, Part the Fifth and Final...Including the Music!

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By David W. Robinson



The Furutech NCF Booster Brace, double AC receptacle version. Images courtesy of Furutech.

Furutech is certainly no stranger to my *PF* Brutus Awards. Over the years, they have garnered a number of them for reasons that are not mysterious: Furutech simply produces some of the finest and most meticulous high-end audio products available.

This year, I had the opportunity to check out their Booster Brace (double AC receptacle) and Booster Brace Single (single AC receptacle), plus their NCF Clear Line.

The Booster Brace designs are units that provide additional bracing and shielding at the AC receptacle end of things. It supports the male AC power cable end of things, and nicely performs the task of applying the clarifying effect that NCF adds to high-end audio playback.

I can do no better than to quote my summary evaluation of the Booster Brace from a recent review. As I mentioned in [my review of the Vinnie Rossi L2i SE Integrated Amplifier in September of 2020](#), quoting from an email that I had sent to Furutech:

"...we have our Vinno Rossi L2i-SE reference integrated amplifier/DAC/phono amp and an iFi Pro iDSD DSD512-capable DAC/Headphone Amp/ Preamp sharing a pair of AC receptacles with a two-receptacle Booster-Brace via the Clarus Concerto. This is a very high-resolution system. Cables are a combination of TARA Labs (XLR and Speaker cables), Kubala-Sosna Realization Reference USB cable, Synergistic Research Galileo SX reference power cable, Skogrand Beethoven Power Cable, and Focal Sopra 1 Monitor Speakers and dedicated stands. I had been using this combination for several months now, plugged into the same receptacles on the Concerto that I used when I installed the Booster-Brace, and was using DSD512 and DSD256 albums as sources. The DSD512 from [NativeDSD.com](#) is particularly astonishing, although the DSD256 from various sources is also remarkable.

The results of the Booster-Brace in this application were immediately apparent to me: Greater transparency, more nuanced detail, and a sense of improved solidity in the imaging of all recordings that I've heard.

This is a notable achievement. At the DSD256 and (especially) DSD512 levels, the performance wrought by the Booster-Braces cannot be gainsaid. I would not want to be without it."



The Furutech NCF Booster Brace, single AC receptacle version.

Enough said! Furutech has done it again with its Booster Brace products, and receives my Brutus Award for this innovative design.

PF Brutus Award, 2020

On behalf of the creative community at Positive Feedback, and
in recognition of significant contributions to the audio arts in
2020, this award is hereby presented to

**Furutech for the
Booster Brace and Booster Brace Single**



in order to encourage further excellence in
fine audio, to the greater good of all who
love it.

November 28, 2020

David W. Robinson, Editor-in-Chief

Dave Clark, Editor



Furutech NCF Clear Line



The Furutech NCF Clear Line AC Power Supply Optimizer

A final product submission from Furutech came to me later in 2020. It was their latest NCF product, the NCF Clear Line. The unit is compact, easy to handle, and simple to deploy. And it has the ability to enhance the sonic/video performance of all components in its circuit.

As stated on the [Furutech Web site](#), the NCF Clear Line applies the dampening characteristics of NCF to its application to audio power circuitry in a system. The link that I've supplied talks about what's happening in more detail:

"NCF Clear Line is an audio grade passive AC optimizer, small enough to hold in your hand, that instantly enhances the quality of your power supply. Simply plug the NCF Clear Line into any vacant receptacle on either a power distributor or wall outlet. For best effect, use the NCF Clear Line on the same AC line/supply as your system, preferably at a receptacle adjacent to your system.

It only takes a moment to hear the improvement in the sound. You won't have to switch back and forth repeatedly in order to 'discover' an improvement. It's right there.

You'll immediately notice improvements in the depth and focus of the sound stage, harmonics and tonal balance with NCF. Low frequencies are cleaner, with a greater sense of definition made possible by a lowered noise floor.

Then unplug the NCF Clear Line from the power receptacle. You'll immediately miss those sonic improvements. You'll want them back.

In home theater applications, you will also hear these same distinct results. Just as importantly, you'll see the difference in your video quality. All you need to do is plug the NCF Clear Line into your home entertainment system and the improvements will be instantly noticeable.

Sharper. Clearer. Yet more natural and easy on the eyes."

I'll amen this, since it parallels my experience here at *PF Central*. Having applied the review sample NCF Clear Line units in both our reference office system, as well as in our reference home theater/multi-channel room, I was able to simply and easily confirm that Furutech's claims stated above are quite accurate. A simple A/B/A switch out (put the NCF Clear Line in and listen; remove it and listen; then put it back and listen again) confirmed the changes that I could hear immediately. For me, it was the lower noise floor, which produced a greater transparency. This in turn created a better soundstage and improved imaging in both settings. And the video clarity on our 65" Sony Bravia OLED 4K TV was quite evident, bringing an improved presentation of both 1080p and 4K sources. This was regardless of whether I was using optical media courtesy of our OPPO UDP-205, or streaming via Amazon Fire 4K/Amazon Prime and associated subscribed channels, Apple TV 4K, or YouTube Premium 4K. All took a step forward with the NCF Clear Line in the AC end of things.

At an MSRP of \$250 per unit, this is a serious audiobang-for-the-buck product, and should improve any system on an associated circuit. Definitely a serious and easy-to-use system enhancement, and one that I can recommend to all audiophiles and videophiles. Try it; you'll like it!

And also another a winner of another of my 2020 Brutus Awards!

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