



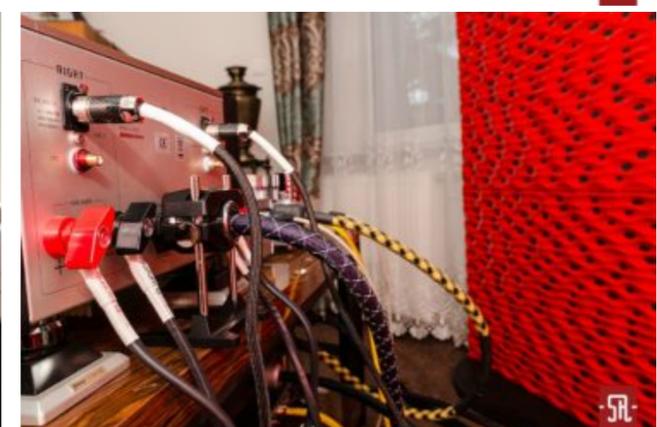
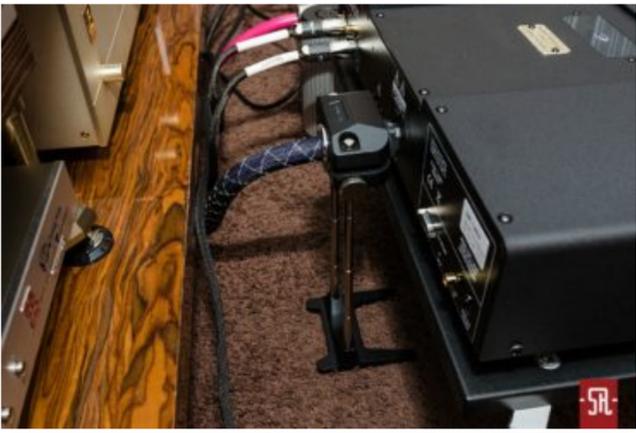
SOUNDREBELS

Furutech NCF Booster English ver.



I do not know, how our today's meeting will be seen by the followers of a theory like: "all digital audio devices sound the same" or "cabling has absolutely no influence on the sound of a device", but I am now warning the most nervous hunters of the audio-voodoo themes before they start reading this text. What is this all about? For me this is nothing special, as we will be looking this time not at a cable, but at an accessory for cable application. But what exactly is it? We will be looking at cable supports, as lately some cables became very heavy and are pulling the sockets from our walls and devices. Did I lose my mind? I assure you, before I tested this contraption in my own system, I had similar thoughts about the distributor of those things, but, as it often happens, not everything is as obvious as you might think, and after a few days, the ironical grin I had on my face disappeared, making place for a positive surprise. Who played this joke on me? Who could it be – the world leader in this kind of accessories, the very well known Japanese company Furutech, which introduced to the market a device called NCF Booster, and which was brought to us for testing by the Katowice based distributor RCM.







So what is the Furutech NCF Booster? Looking at it from the top we have something with a shape of a twisted frog with thin legs. When we start to analyze from the bottom, we see a base that provides a very good and stable support, and the company materials state, it was made from an ABS resin. Looking up, along the rods, which allow the application of the device even up to half a meter high, we reach the suspension for the supported plug (made from ABS resin and nylon NCF resin used to eliminate static electricity). As you can see on the photos, on the sides of the bed two very important items are located, two screws allowing to set the height of the contraption and properly secure it. But this is not all – as on the cable, plug or filter, supported by the unit, we place a securing clamp. The latter is made from stainless steel combined with nylon NCF resin. The whole is held together by two rubber o-rings, which are not mandatory if you do move the device too after application. But if you just assemble it and leave, then those two rubbers will dot the “i”. Finalizing this descriptive paragraph, I must tell you, that when you plan to extend the construct beyond that what is supplied in the original package, you must order another set of extenders, which are quite easy to put on, as the rods are threaded.

What made me want to describe the influence of this contraption on my audio system? You might be wondering, but the impulse for that was a surprisingly clear, and what is very important, positive influence it had on the gear placed on the rack between the speakers. Not that I would complain about the gear I own, but being frank, always when my colleagues are visiting, and not setting the game with very good recorded music, I start with showing them my observations, which are in the direction of micro, but still shortcomings. True, this is nitpicking, but when I manage to improve a certain aspect, I am showing it to them during next visits. So what was brought with the application of the tested Booster? This is like a blow on the head. In one second, due to the increase of energy of reverberation of each of the virtual sound sources on the stage improves the readability of the sound. The back planes, while staying in their place, gain a certain shine, what results in the ability of using lower volume levels and still hear it with the same palpability. But this is not all what the tested accessory brought to the sound. This clarity of the sound is not a result of improvement of the contours of the instruments by a harmful thinning of the sound, but by the increase of the mass of each of them, not thickening the edges. It is just that each phrase is juicier, but still within the boundaries created by the system earlier. Impossible? I did not want to believe in this at first, but a few tests with music containing overly bass did not want to show anything else than the effect I just described. Is there any catch to it? I do not know, if you can name it this way, as this will depend on the system, the expectations of the listener and repertoire. It is about the effect brought by using additional Furutech supports. Because each additional Booster increases the effect in an almost geometrical way. In my system, using a second base resulted in too much sugar in the sugar. Should I be clearer? Be my guest. As I mentioned, using the Booster improves the readability of the sound with a very positive reception of its increased energy and contour. But unfortunately, or fortunately, another support placed in front of the line preamplifier, almost doubled (more or less) this influence, so when listening to quiet music, based on long decay of the piano sounds, or vocals in a church, resulted in shortening of the decay time, what translated into a few milliseconds of the sound being lost from its inter-loudspeaker life. This did not happen due to the sound being cut, but knowing the repertoire be heart, I heard the minimal loss of ethereality (it became too blunt) as well as its bearing capability (you could hear something like a cut). But I would like to remind you, that my systems and the music I listen to, always had such romantic artefacts, so it was easy for me to notice such things. Any other representative of the homo sapiens may not even notice it, but those who listen to strong rock, or electronics, will double their donations to charity hearing the increase of energy in my Japanese system. I used two supports when listening to heavy metal, but as I listen mostly to audiophile music, the buying decision was around one unit. And please believe me, I am absolutely not joking. And this is the second thing, which does not allow me to classify easily the increase of number of those supports as the other side of the medal. What else can I say? Frankly speaking, I would be able to talk about it for a few more pages, but to not turn it against the tested item, I will rest at that.

If somebody knows me, not even personally, but through the things that I am writing, then he or she knows, I am not easily so praising. This naturally suggests, that when such things appear, and are in some aspect surprising, becoming another, even small step to catch the audiophile rabbit, then those things end up in my system. This is also what happened to the Booster. Why it was only one unit, should be clear after the reading of my text. But you, as you do not know, what will happen, when you double the units in your system, should ask the distributor to provide you with two pieces for testing. This will cost you nothing, and there is a chance, that the system, and the music itself, will be grateful for this, also double. Finalizing this test, I have one more thing to say, very important from the pint of view of the people interested in this accessory. I mean the influence of the Booster not only on the NCF family of plugs by Furutech (although in this case the influence will be most visible), but it works with all kinds of plugs, regardless of their manufacturer or material they were made from. And this, combined with the ease of getting items borrowed from the distributor for a deposit (or if you know them well – even without a deposit) you can test this quite inexpensive device, compared to the cables, and verify what I have written by yourselves. I do not know, how this will end, but I ensure you, that you will have lots of fun, and it can end with a check mate.

Jacek Pazio

Distributor: **RCM**

Price: 1 690 PLN

System used in this test:

– CD: CEC TL 0 3.0 + Reimyo DAP – 999 EX Limited TOKU

– Preamplifier: Robert Koda Takumi K-15

– Power amplifier: Reimyo KAP – 777

– Loudspeakers: Trenner & Friedl “ISIS”

– Speaker Cables: Tellurium Q Silver Diamond

IC RCA: Hijri „Milon”

XLR: Tellurium Q Silver Diamond

Digital IC: Harmonix HS 102

Power cables: Harmonix X-DC 350M2R Improved Version, Furutech NanoFlux NCF Furutech DPS-4 + FI-E50 NCF(R)/ FI-50(R), Hijiri Nagomi

Table: SOLID BASE VI

– Accessories: Harmonix Beauty Tone Milion Maestro, Harmonix TU 505EX MK II, Stillpoints „ULTRA SS”, Stillpoints ”ULTRA MINI”; antivibration platform by SOLID TECH; Harmonix AC Enacom Improved for 100-240V; Harmonix Room Tuning Mini Disk RFA-80i

– Power distribution board: POWER BASE HIGH END

Analog stage:

– Turntable:

Drive: SME 30/2

Link do tekstu: [Furutech NCF Booster English ver.](#)