



# Furutech Flow 15

**A**rguably one of the least addressed aspects of the audio and video arena is the quality of the AC power. And yet, like room acoustics, the impact of poor-quality AC on component and system performance can be significant.

I say can be, because many component manufacturers put a lot of effort into the design of their power supplies, which includes the ability of those power supplies to cope with and get rid of noise and interference.

But it also stands to reason that if the quality of the AC power being fed to components is good from the outset, the power supplies of individual components will be less compromised, with notable improvements in performance.

One should also recognise that not all AC lines are created equal, and that some AC feeds can be more compromised than others. And therefore, the impact of power conditioning and filtering devices can vary greatly, not only from system to system, but even from component to component.

Furutech's Flow 15 in-line power filter has been designed to address the broad spectrum of AC-related issues, including ground noise distortion, voltage variances, HF noise attributed to the power supplies of system components, and HF digital noise from digital devices such as processors.

It's a compact and user-friendly device that looks like a short cable with an IEC input receptacle on one end, and a IEC male connector on the other. As such, it is easily accommodated between a component and an existing power cable, or between an AC wall outlet and a power distribution block.

The Flow 15 employs Furutech three-core power cable, with each of the three power conductors employing 37 strands of silver-plated OFC conductors. The filter module integrated into the input receptacle comprises a nylon/fibreglass inner construction, with a chrome-plated



steel outer.

Inside, a parallel circuit with in-line coil and capacitor is used for HF noise reduction, while an earth/ground jumper system is also incorporated. Construction is immaculate, with Furutech's own, superbly engineered connectors, while a unique combination of 'active' materials (nano-sized ceramic particles combined with carbon powder) provides effective electrical, mechanical and thermal damping.

I used the Flow 15 with several different components, including a Naim Uniti2, Ayre A-X7e integrated amplifier, and an Esoteric Audio UX-03 SE SACD deck. In all cases, the Flow 15 was used without the benefit of other power conditioning or regeneration devices, with AC sourced directly from the AC wall outlet.

The results were subtle, but easily discernible, and certainly positive. In all three cases, the music benefited from a greater sense of space and air, which in turn allowed finer details and nuances to become noticeable. Quieter passages, in particular, seemed richer in musicality, and the music seemed to flow with greater purpose and momentum.

The latter is particularly important, as lesser power filter designs have a reputation for addressing noise at the cost of flow and impetus, especially when used in conjunction with amplifiers – but here, quite the opposite was true, and there was an ease and energy to the musical delivery that added to the overall enjoyment of the listening experience.

Thus, Bonnie Raitt's age-mellowed vocals and articulate guitar licks on *Slipstream* (Redwing CD) were portrayed with presence and space, accurately interpreting both the music and the ambience of the recording, and somehow extracting additional energy and momentum that wasn't as obvious without the Flow 15.

The Furutech Flow 15 does exactly what it promises, but the level of its effectiveness will vary from system to system.

Deon Schoeman

## VITAL STATS

Configuration .....	In-line filter
Body ...	Fibreglass/nylon-damped inner with steel plate outer Nano-sized ceramic particles and carbon powder core
Filter .....	AC-1001G EMI-filtering IEC
Cable.....	Three-core, silver-plated OFC, twisted
Connectors .....	24k gold-plated
Insulation .....	Polyethylene
Noise reduction.....	8 dB @ 100 kHz, 14 dB @ 500 kHz, 30 dB @ 10 MHz
Price .....	R2 450

### Verdict

Subtle but effective filter mainly benefits upper frequency detail and air. Impact will vary between components and systems

### Supplied by

AV Cables  
082 774-4831

### e-Mail

info@avcables.co.za

### Website

www.avcables.co.za

OUR RATING: 74 / 100

