



POSITIVE FEEDBACK ONLINE

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Robinson's Brutus Awards for 2009

by David W. Robinson

Furutech - Daytona 303 Multi-Mode Power Filter and the Powerflux Power Cable



Another perennial over-achiever in fine audio/video is Furutech. This year I was able to sample several of their new designs, and came away impressed once again with the quality of engineering and the performance of the Furutech line.

This year saw me concentrating on Furutech products for our home theater. I replaced our trusty-but-rusty VansEvers Cleanline power center with Furutech's new Daytona 303 Multi-Mode Power Filter. At the same time that I did this, I also replaced the power cable to our Panasonic 65" plasma 1080p with their Piezo Powerflux Power cable. A second Piezo was used to replace the power cable to our Linn Kisto home theater processor.

The Daytona 303 is a very sophisticated power filter and distributor. The unit is an attractive aluminum finish, with the chassis being a single body rather than a bolt-together; this prevents vibration and improves shielding against garbage on your AC power, which is ubiquitous in our power grid and quite unpleasant in its effects on both audio and video. Additionally, the 303 has shielding to protect the internal circuits from EMI and RF contamination that are to be found everywhere in modern life, and which can really add a lot of junk to audio/video playback. The 303 provides ten outlets: six source outlets with digital filtering, and four processor/amp outlets that provide higher current-demand power. Filtered outlets are organized to be isolated from one another, limiting internal cross-contamination of sources. Surge/spike protection to the tune of 5250 Joules is provided. Constant circuit monitoring provides for very rapid disconnect/reconnect

of components when dangerous power levels are encountered, which can protect your gear from serious damage in such cases. Rounding out the rear-side I/O are three pair of coax connections to allow filtering/protection of cable, satellite, and other RG-8 sources, plus a set of telephone ports to protect one telephone line input and two telephone line outputs. The only thing that I missed here was Ethernet protection; Ethernet has become a critical aspect of audio and video systems, and should also be protected against surges and spikes to the system. Furutech even thoughtfully provides a plug-in gooseneck lamp with a three-position off/low/high output switch on the back of the Daytona 303; this allows the user or installer to see the back end clearly with both hands free.

Friends, it's the little touches like this that set Furutech apart. Engineering plus brains... a goodly combination!

The very handsome front panel of the 303 provides a constantly updated and highly visible readout of current voltage...which is common enough... but it also gives you the current amperage of system draw, which is very uncommon on devices like these. The 303 is rated for 120 Volts/15 Amps (there is a 230 Volt model available), and with ten outlets it's good to know how close your system is skating to the maximum. (You can even see the amperage fluctuate as the scenes change during a Blu Ray; it's quite an education in power use.)

Once the Furutech Daytona 303 and the Alpha Piezo Powerflux power cables were installed, the results were immediately apparent: improved definition and detail on Blu Ray reproduction was quite evident. Color rendition was better; black and white on Blu Ray seemed to have better gradation and a smoother gray scale. The sound on the Kisto processing showed a lower noise floor, a certain edge and grain to the sound dropped away, and the dynamics of sound swing for SACD in surround mode was improved. The protection circuitry of the 303 didn't darken, congest or restrict the sound performance of our home theater system; rather, it provided greater transparency and an improved sense of musical warmth and richness.

Altogether, I adjudged the installation of the Daytona 303/Alpha Piezo Powerflux power cables to be a real asset over the time it's been in use here. Very intelligently designed, the Furutech 303 lives up to its claims to be a state-of-the-art power filtering/distribution center, and the synergy with the Piezo Powerflux power cables is obvious. I have come to consider this combination to be essential for home theater use.

Very highly recommended, and both products are worthy of *PFO* 2009 Brutus Awards. So given!

Furutech was honored with a Best of Innovations 2009 award for what may be the most sophisticated and thoroughly engineered AC connectors in the world, the FI-50 Series, now standard equipment on the Furutech Piezo Powerflux AC cord.

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