

FURUTECH

Positive Feedback Online – Flow-28 Review



November 2011



The Furutech Flow-28 AC Filter

OK, this will be quick.

The Furutech Flow-28 AC filter was a late-season surprise. Late last summer, Furutech offered me an opportunity to try a pair of their new Flow-28 AC filters here. A compact one-piece AC filtering system that simply plugs into your system, between your outlet and your power cord? AC plug, IEC female? All made with Furutech's legendary engineering and execution?

OK, I'll give that a ride...

These compact devices arrived shortly thereafter. They're very elegant and hefty, but didn't look too complex.

Appearances can be deceiving, though. Furutech constructed the AC side with their AC-1501R EMI-filtering IEC input; on the other end, they put their rhodium-plated non-magnetic FI-28R IEC connector. In between, there's some pretty impressive audio engineering. According to Furutech's technical profile, the Flow-28 contains the following advanced technologies 'twixt here and there:

The body of the Flow-28 combines two "active" materials: Nano-sized ceramic particles and powdered carbon plus Nylon and fiberglass to form an extremely effective *mechanically and electrically* damped body

- Use between power cables and power distributors or power cables and components
- Eliminates radiated AC noise
- Fitted with rhodium-plated α (Alpha) nonmagnetic FI-28R connector
- AC-1501R EMI-filtering IEC features rhodium-plated α (Alpha) nonmagnetic copper alloy conductors plus ...
- A parallel circuit with an in-line coil and capacitor that reduces noise at 1MHz by 10dB and at 10MHz by more than 30dB
- Floating Field Damper™ (Earth/Ground Jumper System) with US Patent No.: 6,669,491
- Patent-pending metal cable clamp improves grip and reduces mechanically and electrically induced distortion
- α (Alpha) conductor shield for protection against radiated noise
- RoHS-compliant flexible PVC sheath improves vibration isolation
- Special high-grade PE Insulation contributes to reduced capacitance
- Incorporating Furutech's special passive GC-303 EMI filtering material

Lots of filtering; lots of isolation, electronically and physically; advanced materials design. Check.

The entire assembly is subjected to Furutech's "Alpha process" for deep cryo and demagnetization. My experience is that this always improves the sound; I'm glad that more manufacturers are doing this now.

Anyway, so far, so good. I know that Furutech has a reputation for ferocious overdesign and top-notch engineering, but this was a product unlike anything I had tried before. I wondered how it would do.

It was simple enough; the best places that I had available for these two units was at the point between the AC socket and the excellent Bel Canto DAC 2.5 DAC/preamp, and between AC and the likewise very fine Bel Canto REF 150 amplifier for our reference desktop playback system. Power cabling for both units is the superb Kubala-Sosna Elation! 15 amp AC cables, an obvious world-class product. Near-field listening via the Nova Ovation two-way speakers (Scanspeak drivers) would reveal pretty quickly if something had changed or improved.

I powered off both units, quickly inserted the Flow-28 units... a matter of a few seconds for each...and then powered back up.



When they were back, I went back to the SHM SACD that I had been listening to via the Oppo Digital BDP-95 ... Cream's *Wheels of Fire*, as I recall. I didn't know what to expect, really, but I did think that I'd probably have to go through 50-100 hours (at least) of break-in to get a sense of what the Flow-28s would do.

Caramba!

The difference was significant, and it was immediately obvious. The clarity and transparency of what I was hearing had improved big time! It was as if the noise floor had dropped a few dozen feet below me, and all sorts of details emerged from the recording in subtle... or not so subtle... ways. Now the reference desktop system here doesn't have the same level of attention that our reference listening room or reference home theater room have...e.g., no fully dedicated power supply, no special AC outlets (yet!)... but we do have some fine cabling in place. I was therefore not surprised that there would be improvement, but frankly, I was surprised at how much of a difference a pair of the Furutech Flow-28s made in the quality of the sound.

I was also taken aback by the fact that the transformation was instantaneous. No muss, no fuss...and no waiting for the payoff.

As a matter of fact, the improvement was so immediate and so yummy that I haven't touched the Flow-28s since then. As far as I'm concerned, they are going to stay right where they are, blessing the sound of the Bel Cantos while I pound away at my keyboard here at *PFO Central*!

If you're smart, you'll find a place somewhere in your audio fiefdom and do the same thing that I did.

These things work!

Therefore, I give the Furutech Flow-28 a **"Ye Olde Editor's 'highly recommended'!"**