

Review

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WORLD PREMIERE

THUNDER MELODY is one of the newest Polish audio brands, founded just last year. It was founded by Mr. KONRAD RAŚ and Mr. RAFAŁ HŁADZIAK and specializes in products developed for vibration damping, noise reduction and conditioning of the power supply. For this test we received the VACUUM INFINITUM BLACK AC power supply filter.]

IT DOES NOT HAPPEN OFTEN that a product of a new, small company not only fares well compared to the well-known competition, but it actually **is better than it**. And this was the case with the MONUMENT anti-vibration platform of the Polish company THUNDER MELODY, which we tested in October last year (HF № 198, see [HERE](#)). Compared to the reference product, the pneumatic RAF-48H platform of the Japanese Audio Revive, the Polish product won hands down.



Back then I knew that Thunder Melody had already also developed or just was finishing development of several other products, including a **passive parallel AC power filter**. We encounter products of this type quite often, both in the form of plugs, such

Recordings used for the test | a selection

→ SACD/CD

- ∖ CANNONBALL ADDERLEY, *Somethin' Else*, ESSB-90125, SACD/CD (1958/2015) w: 60 Minutes in Music, Blue Note/Esoteric ESSB-90122/7
- ∖ DIANA KRALL, *Wallflower*, Verve/Universal "Deluxe Edition", SHM-CD + DVD (2015);
- ∖ ROY HAYNES QUARTET, *Out of the Afternoon*, ESSI-90135, SACD/CD (1962/2015) w: Impulse!/Esoteric ESSI-9013/8 (2015)
- ∖ THE OSCAR PETERSON TRIO, *We Get Requests*, Impression Music LIM K2HD 032, K2HD Master from-Master Edition UDM", Master CD-R (2017)
- ∖ TOMASZ PAUSZEK, *LO-FI LO-VE*, Audio Archival x Master CD-R (2017);
- ∖ VANGELIS, *Blade Runner*, Atlantic Records "Limited Edition | No. 2398", SACD/CD (1982)

→ Pliki/Tidal

- ∖ DRAKE, *Scary Hours 2*, OVO Sound/Tidal (2021)
- ∖ LANA DEL REY, *Chemtrails Over The Country Club*, Master, MQA 24/48 (2021)
- ∖ RINGO STARR, *Zoom In*, UMe/Tidal Master
- ∖ SAM SMITH, *Live At Abbey Road Studios*, OVO Sound Master, MQA 24/96 (2021);



IT CAN NOT BE A COINCIDENT or a one-time coincidence that the Infinity Black filter brings similar features to the Monument platform once did. The changes are subtle, i.e. their scope is a bit smaller, but they are a **clear improvement in sound can be heard immediately** when the filter is plugged into the power outlet, although it takes some time over time. This deepening, however, goes in the right direction at the very beginning.

as [QUALIA PHYSIC Q1](#), but also as separate "boxes" connected to the power socket. Among the latter, there are some interesting examples such as the product of the Acoustic Revive, based on the design of the creator of the computer mouse, the RPC-1 (review [HERE](#)), but also the [Verictum X BULK GOLD](#).

While the purpose of all these filters is the same, filtering high-frequency and magnetostatic interference from the power supply, the methods they use are different. Thunder Melody also has developed its own method. It's just that it is not entirely clear to me what is it. Their products are sealed and the test was only possible thanks to my promise not to take them apart. I don't like such situations, they are uncomfortable for me. This time, however, I made an exception because I understand the concerns of a company whose **capital comes primarily from knowledge**. And many would like to get access to the latter ...

VACUUM INFINITUM BLACK

THE NAME OF THE TESTED FILTER, Vacuum Ininitum ("perfect vacuum" - could there be an association with a novel by Stanisław Lem, polish si-fi writer?), says a lot about the manufacturer's ambitions. The Monument part of the name fits in as well And the retail prices of these products complete the whole picture - they are ones of the highest in the audio industry, regardless of the country of origin.

The tested filter has a form of a **medium-sized box with a housing made of panzerholtz**. A brass, antiqued nameplate with the company name is screwed on the front, and on the back there is a Furutech IEC power socket with rhodium plated contacts, belonging to the NFC series, and a silver WBT Ag speaker terminal. It is not directly connected to the PE from the socket, so the tested filter can also be safely used as an artificial ground, something like Nordost's QKore. To this socket we connect a cable terminated with spade with an internal diameter of 6 and 8 mm or a banana plug.

The device is available in several versions, and its price, depending on the filter used, **may vary between PLN 8,900 and PLN 22,000** - and we are testing the most expensive version. The lineup includes three basic types:

- Thunder Melody VACUUM INFINITUM SILVER – basic version – 8900 PLN,
- Thunder Melody VACUUM INFINITUM GOLD – advanced version – 12 000 PLN,
- Thunder Melody VACUUM INFINITUM BLACK – top, reviewed version – 22 000 PLN.

As the designer says, it is best to connect the filter not right next to the audio system, but in the place where the greatest interference is introduced to the mains, i.e. **near the refrigerator, computers, etc..** Of course, there is no reason not to place have it placed next to the system, but then we will get slightly different results than if it was connected away from it.



Thanks to the Thunder Melody filter, the sound becomes **more vivid and vibrant**. Even with the volume set to an enormous, and its vividness exceptional, so that the sound is in its sound. However, I listened to two recordings prepared by the Esoteric label, and I knew

On both, the CANNONBALL ADDERLEY baritone saxophone and 'Else and the ROY HAYNES quartet from the album *Afternoon*, **with the filter plugged in I heard a darker presentation**. There was no way it was just a part or a case of me being vulnerable to the changes because the changes were so unambiguous that I had to have to be deaf not to notice them. And the filter was adding a three-dimensional "there" to each sound, turning it into an event.

The deepened sound also resulted in a deeper focus. On some albums it may seem that they sound like stretched edges of the stereo panorama. However, with the filter that it is about something else, about great detail and focused attention on things that were previously overshadowed by other sounds. As a result, the sound gains **importance and credibility**.

Interestingly the sound **seems softer with the filter**. Even though you can hear more, it sounds as if some distortions had been removed from the sound, something causing a stronger attack that still maintains the saturation. As in the opening track of TRIO's *We Get Request*, played from a copy released by First Impression Music. With the filter, the different ways of hitting the triangle at the beginning of the opening this album, and then the difference between playing with a stick.

I am invoking these details not for themselves, but for their meaning, unless they are part of a larger whole. This is especially true with products of this type, such as the tested filter. I want to better understand how it all works, how the

As the manufacturer says, "the power for your the kitchen" should be "well-taken care of" in a similar way to that for the audio system, which nobody really does. And next:

“ And it is sad and funny at the same time. Sad, because this is another cost center and the higher it is the better the end result. Funny, in turn, because there is still a place where you can improve everything on a huge scale, without touching anything, replacing electronics, accessories, everything that is already so painstakingly collected - and especially without touching the equipment.

The filter is **nicely finished and looks really well**. Its finish is better than that of the platform we once tested and you can see that a lot has been improved in terms of aesthetics. One thing worth considering is doing something with the seals placed on the outside of the device that do not look too good. It is a very expensive product, so we pay primarily for the technical solutions developed for it. But just because it is expensive, it should be perfectly made and finished.

POWER CABLE And now - just like in the case of the Monument anti-vibration platform, the tested filter can be connected using an ordinary "generic" cable - and the product is delivered with such one. However, you can change the rules of the game and **use any high-end AC power cord**. With the platform, the difference was significant, and as the designers of Thunder Melody suggest, it should be the case also this time.

The company offers such cables, with the top model called FEMTO. So we agreed that the test will be performed with a "generic" cable, and I would listen to Femto separately as sort of a *post scriptum* to this test. This is not a cheap cable, because it costs PLN 19,000 ... Fortunately, the lineup also includes two more affordable cables: Strato for PLN 3,500 and NoGravity for PLN 8,500 (plus VAT).

SOUND

HOW WE LISTENED All the filters I mentioned earlier I tested in a classic way, that is by listening to their influence on the sound and performing A/B/A comparisons, with the A and B known. **With Vacuum Infinity Black it is different**. As Mr. Konrad Raś says:

“ Comparing our filter is not as simple as the others - it is impossible to perform a simple A/B/A test. It would be best to connect the device for the night and start testing the next day. At the same time, the correct L polarity must be maintained, as in the case of powering any other audio devices. To obtain the proper effectiveness, the power socket (wall) must also be connected to the PE ground, artificial zeroing will not allow any real effects.

sound influence the higher ones, and how t
added value, something more than modula

The filter **introduces calmness, depth and system** - but, as I say, delicacy resulting from individual elements. Therefore, not only do sweeter with it, but still stronger, but the s other extreme of the frequency range. **The denser**, yet there seemed to be a bit less of RAY BROWN's double bass on the Peterson sound from DIANA KRALL's album, but it c electronics - both on the discs of TOMASZ I

The low, massive descents opening the sec double album *LO-FI LO-VE* of the Polish mu Infinity Black seemed to me to be better co distinctly differentiated. Earlier, I didn't m sound, I was even amazed with their massi this album is!), But a moment with the filter it could be presented in a better, denser, lo

I mentioned that the filter transformed my towards **density and having less pronou** fantastically audible with high quality CD a using my high-end player, the changes I am probably even more applaudable with files

Let's listen to the song *White Dress* from th DEL REY's album, and we will hear a strong sibilants in the singer's voice - this is a pro mistake! The filter gave this trick a musical a feature of the recording, and not - as bef neutrality. It is clear that this is a deviation sloppiness of the producer, but about the f achieve this particular effect.

In a similar way I perceived the sound of S his latest album *Live At Abbey Road Studios* "live" recording in the Abbey Road studio, have these not particularly vibrant cymbal vocals. On the other hand, you can hear the of playing together, the joy of making musi **joy was greater, the presentation was a** files from Tidal, also with songs like *Lemon DRAKE*, from the *Scary Hours 2* album sour interesting way.

SUMMARY

The *Post scriptum* of this test was, as Mr. K replacement of the computer cable with Fe power chord. The designer was right when

“ I want the test to be performed with that is with the generic cable, and tha be based on this set. But in the end, a



As he also says, the filter "cleans" the system with its surroundings, which can be heard "immediately". This process is so dynamic that it is worth turning on the audio system at night and abstain from eavesdropping. There is also the other side of the coin. When we disconnect the filter from the socket, "catching" the new balance also takes time, which - as I found out - should be understood in such a way that **the effect "holds" for some time and only then diminishes.**

The changes are so fundamental that you can easily spot them - says the designer. So I suggest that you make notes from the first day, and then from the second and third, because each time "it's going to be a completely different sound". During this time, **no changes should be made to the system**, because every touch of the cables, reconnecting them, etc. causes electrostatic stress, and this affects the final result, the smallest changes that translate into a "coherent image".



And so I did as suggested. The filter **was plugged into a socket belonging to the "kitchen" circuit.** The listening session was divided into three parts: the first comparison was made in the classic A/B version, with A and B known, the second test was performed an hour after plugging the filter into the socket, and the third a day later. Although each subsequent approach showed the

opinion, it would be worthwhile to totally... will happen! - by switching to Femto. It just... for adaptation in a system and you can dra... asking you about this supplementary test, ... the cake and it summarizes the whole sens...

The changes it brings to the already excell... Vacuum Infinity Black filter, are large and s... to the filter itself. **I would definitely prefe**... because the sound becomes more refined a... differentiated in such a combination, but it... done later. The problem may be that once... together, we won't want to wait.

The filter itself offers such a huge improve... that direction, such as with Femto, only em... And it does a lot: it deepens the sound, soft... the system to differentiate colors better, it... improves the depth of the stage and allows... sound. It is also so that with the filter **you v**... **louder.** When the sound is worse, it is exac... to listen quieter, so that the distortions hur...



Similarly to the Monument anti-vibration p... Infinity Black filter, preferably with the Fer... **used in all sophisticated audio systems.**... qualities we value the best recordings for -... musicality. ■

deepening of the effect that the designers had talked about, the A/B comparison made the biggest impression on me, without any time interval between A and B.

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