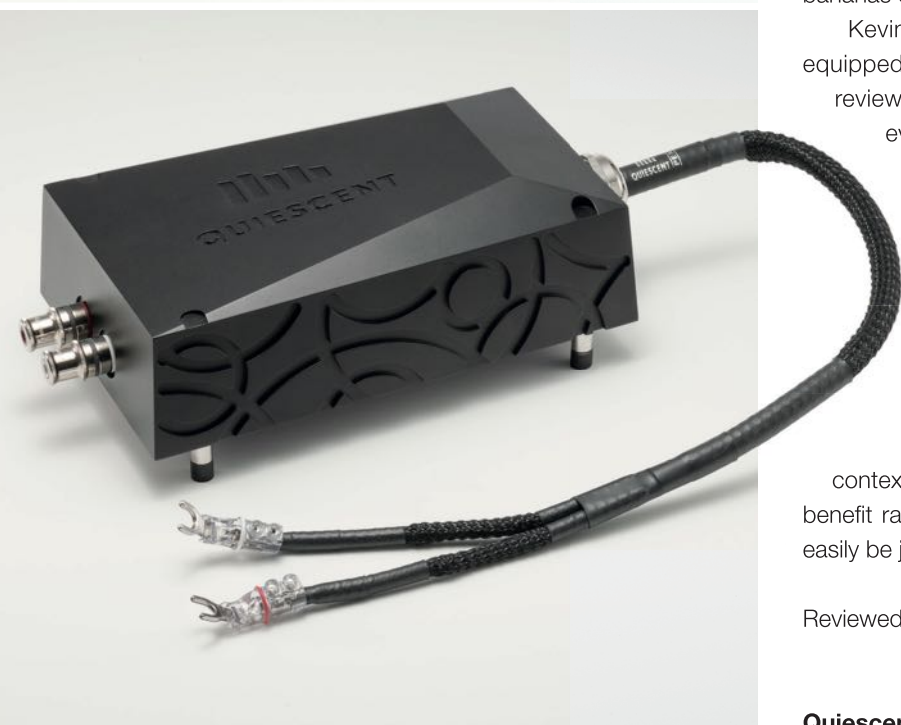




ACCESSORY OF THE YEAR

Quiescent Apex 40 Couplers/
Peak Speaker Modules

“ Fully equipped with Couplers and the Speaker Modules, the review system, no slouch before, was transformed in every dimension.”



Products that aim to mitigate the sonic damage being done to audio reproduction by electromagnetic and radio frequency interference are common. Not least because the latter is a higher frequency version of the former. However, there is a third corrupting influence that is less frequently addressed. It is microphony. Quiescent is one of the few brands attempting to reduce EMI, RFI and microphony.

Quiescent’s Apex 40 Couplers are not footers or supports as we might understand the terms, but 3D printed shallow boxes placed between component and stand, and they are a little less than the size of two packets of playing cards laid side by side. Their exterior is irregular with a deep acoustically disruptive pattern. Meanwhile, the Peak Speaker Module is a block of black anodised aluminium, machined from billet, with no parallel faces and an acoustically disruptive milled pattern on the outside. It is about the size of a house brick, but weighs rather more at some 4.5 kg. Two continuous lengths of solid silver conductor wire run internally, starting at a pair of silver WBT binding posts and emerging at the other end as a length of captive speaker cable terminated in silver WBT bananas or spades.

Kevin Fiske said of the Quiescent products, “Fully equipped with Couplers and the Speaker Modules, the review system, no slouch before, was transformed in every dimension, delivering greater dynamic agility and power, tonal density and timing cues; in all posting a quite remarkable cumulative uplift in performance that most listeners familiar with the system put in the order of 50%. Improvements in perceived timing were particularly noted, there being a greater immediacy and drive that made complex, multilayered and polyrhythmic programme easier to listen to and appreciate.”

He concluded the review by saying, “In the context of the total RRP of the review system, the cost/benefit ratio of the Quiescent products can, in my view, be easily be justified” +

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