



Connected Fidelity AC-2K Reference

HIGHLY COMMENDED POWER CONDITIONER

Connected Fidelity's AC-2K Reference uses a neat way to counter unwanted mains-related interference by converting it into a balanced mains supply. This uses the same principle as balanced signal interconnections via XLR socketry between devices – creating phase and anti-phase waveforms that can cancel out external intrusion through common-mode noise rejection. The AC-2K's 2000VA-spec toroidal transformer should have the headroom to allow not just low-power source components but amplifiers too up to a few hundred watts of rated power. This, however, contrasts well with similar devices used in hospitals and live venues; all of which cost and weigh a lot more. The rear panel of the AC-2K as standard has just one UK mains outlet and a 20A IEC power inlet.

In our test, Andrew Harison said, "the essential timing and dynamics remained intact –

while the overall sound was in respects showing the kind of night-and-day differences that makes comparisons swift and decisive." Specifically, he felt that, "the major transformation was the way that instrumental colour was fleshed out, making a return to unbalanced mains appear as grey and flatter in timbre." In addition, Andrew felt that, "image height was shifted upwards, along with the sense of air as you find as noise floors are lowered."

He concluded his review by saying, "Balanced mains from the AC-2K must count as one of those one-way dems, where the sonic benefits make switching back to the old normal an unwelcome journey. It offers cleaner, more highly resolving sound along with a mid-band declutter, without any fundamental cramping of pace and dynamics."

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