

Hi End Cable Auric Illuminator

The Auric Illuminator from High End Cable is a treatment and cleaner for optical discs. It is specifically designed for CDs, DVDs and SACDs. The treatment kit includes a large bottle of a clear treatment gel, a pack of non-abrasive disposable polishing cloths, a marker template and a Staedtler Lumocolor permanent marker, referred to as the Auric Illuminator Pen!

The Illuminator is described as an 'optical disc playback resolution enhancement' and essentially involves a two-stage process.



The first stage is to reduce the amount of ambient light entering the disc and reaching the optical path of the player's laser system. The second stage is to clean and treat both surfaces of the disc to remove static electricity. On the playing surface, this will also enhance the optical transparency by reducing reflection and refraction.

To treat a disc, the centre is filled in with the marker using the template supplied and the outer rim of the disc is also blacked out with the marker. Then, the disc is treated on both sides with one drop of the gel spread on the surface and finally buffed with the supplied cloth.

In use

The result is that treated discs seemed less harsh at the top end, generally quieter, smoother and easier to listen to than prior to the treatment.

It may seem a little pricey for a CD treatment, but when you consider that the large bottle will treat a considerable number of discs – probably your entire collection – it is not bad value, and it definitely works! **NR**



► DETAILS

PRICE: £49.95

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OUR VERDICT



Agora Acoustics MagicHexa

A recent visit to a guy who has built a rather good USB DAC (CAD DAC 1543) saw him putting rubbery feet under the DAC, his Mac Mini and a portable hard drive. These turned out to be MagicHexa feet from Korean company Agora Acoustics, soft visco-elastic polymer pucks 76mm in diameter and 23mm high.

Their purpose is isolation and damping of whatever you care to place on top of them up to a maximum of 12kg per puck – so loudspeakers are also an option. They consist of two honeycomb matrices with a skin between them that presumably acts as a heatsink for all the energy they absorb. Claimed to be immune to the effects of temperature and pressure, they can be used under a component's existing feet or directly on the chassis.

In use

I tried them under a number of components that were already quite well isolated by a Townshend Seismic Stand with glass shelves, however I am suspicious of glass as a support surface and the MagicHexa reinforced this feeling. Two pucks under a Heed DT CD transport clearly improved the resolution of note decay and had a very positive effect on both vitality and dynamics. Two under the Heed DA DAC was even more impressive, opening up the soundstage and calming and refining the sound.

They remove sonic hash, leaving a cleaner, more finely detailed result. The stiffer chassis of my Cantata DAC proved less easy to upgrade to the same extent, but still sounded cleaner and revealed extra layers of low level detail. I didn't have enough pucks to do a pair of speakers, so placed them between one Vivid Audio G2 and the carpet which also had a cleaning effect, I think another set is required! A big result for a little price, then. **JK**



► DETAILS

PRICE: £60 (PACK
OF FOUR)

WEBSITE:
ANGELSAUDIO.
CO.UK

OUR VERDICT

