



The First Annual Positive Feedback Online's Writers' Choice Awards for 2004



Auric Illuminator

by Jeff Parks

Now for my equipment choice. The Writers' Choice Award should go the Auric Illuminator. What this little kit can do for a mere \$40 is unbelievable. I have to admit at first I was skeptical, and I let it set on the shelf for a few weeks before I tried playing with it.

Yea, like other audiophiles I have painted my CDs green, stuck labels on them, waxed them, and even put green solid disks on top of them—I even tried demagnetizing them as well. Other than entertaining my wife where she has so much fun in reminding me of the quote P.T. Barnum once stated referring to his new spectacle called the circus (much like our audiophile circus in some cases) he states, "That there's a sucker born every minute," for the most part I have had some limited success with the fore mentioned tweaks. I was beginning to think maybe my wife IS right? Then came along the newest and greatest CD treatment system. "Step right up for the Auric Illuminator."

Is PT Barnum or my wife right? Not in this case, although at first I was not sure. I mean, here I am putting goop on my CDs and wiping it off, and instead of painting the inside and outside edges of my CDs green, I am now painting them black along with the inner inside label. Hell..., as recommended I am not only treating the side of the CD where the data is located, I am now cleaning the label side as well. Now, that gave my wife a chuckle until she heard it for herself. Yeah, she heard a difference. Although she can't put it into audiophile terms (I guess that is my job or neurosis), she did say it "sounded more real." So, what did I hear? I heard less edge and grain, better imaging, a larger soundstage both width with depth, and better air and delicacy with regards to that elusive high end which many times is the bane of digital reproduction—all of that for only \$40. When we as audiophiles are willing to spend hundreds, if not thousand of dollars to improve our audio or home theater rigs by what many times translates as miniscule progress toward that end goal of audio nirvana, the Auric Illuminator is a rockin bargain! Why? Because it works. No audiophile should be without it.