

Harmonix X-DC350M2R Improved Version

The ideal power cord? If such thing exists, then it has to be the X-DC350M2R!

The company Harmonix design and manufactures their cables true to the idea, that the whole audio system is treated as one organism, and the cables are its arteries. Partial occlusion of the flow through those arteries will have negative influence on the whole organism – the audio system. This Japanese brand patented the technology of controlling resonances and the construction of all cables is based on this complicated process of tuning. Each cable, regardless of its length and used materials, is tuned in such a way, that its characteristic is aligned with the master. The X-DC series is now about 10 years old, so it's more than natural, that the newest models are improved. The newest cable X-DC350M2R is an absolute top cable, destined to be used in expensive and uncompromised audio systems. It is very transparent, to not to limit the capabilities of the audio components it will work with.

Without compromise

The model X-DC350M2R, in terms of sound, combines into one, coherent whole, many assets and characteristic of other top cables from different manufacturers. Some time ago I was impressed by the cable

Valhalla from Nordost. Plugging that cable into any system, regardless if the electronics was from medium level, higher level or hi-end, created changes in the sound, as if somebody would exchange a player, amplifier or even loudspeakers. A sense of Rhythm, contours and the amount of audible details have been improved. Plugging in the Harmonix cable, I had similar feelings, but with the difference, that the Japanese power cord was more subtle, but at the same time opening each sound in its essence. It was incredible, how the X-DC350M2R can reveal many minute sounds to the listener. At the same time, it is done in an unobtrusive way, as well as without becoming too clinical. Regardless if I connected the cord to a CD player, or an amplifier, I always had the impression, that the sound gains on freedom in the area of dynamics, there is more breath in the individual frequency sub-ranges and in the more precise space. Most changes to the resolution and selectiveness are audible in the treble and midrange. The low frequencies gain on depth and timbre. The Harmonix does not add any excessive from itself, that would shape the timbre, but it allows

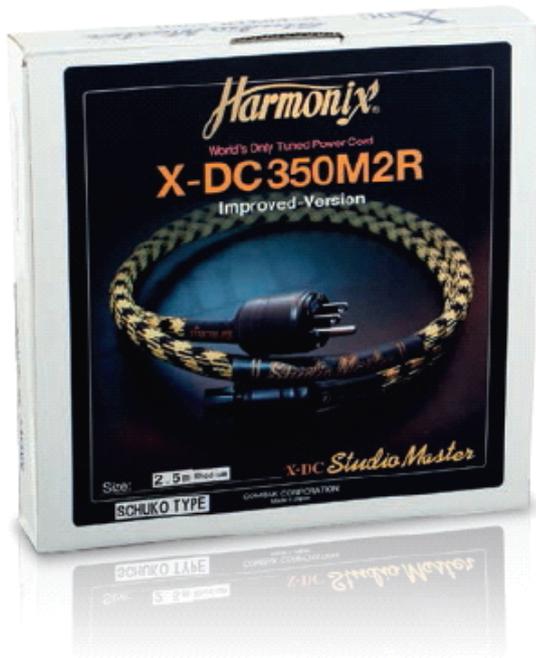
the music to get free closest to its natural form. This is also one of the most musical cables I have ever heard. The X-DC350M2R, connected to an amplifier, regardless if it is a solid state or a tube amp, can enchant with an incredibly smooth, and free from artificial aggression, sound, at the same time underlining the smallest changes in macro- and micro-dynamics. The Accuphase system, consisting of the CD player DP-510 and amplifier E-560 as well as the tube integrated amplifier Ayon Spark III connected to the power outlet using the Harmonix X-DC350M2R cables gained significantly. The sound got free from all nervousness, which was replaced by pure dynamics, without becoming overly aggressive, while keeping the natural, rhythmical color of the individual acoustic instruments. The X-DC350M2R also influences the special reproduction, especially in terms of sharpness of the virtual sources, or the distances between them. So if you have loudspeakers, capable of precisely reproducing stereophonic, then the Japanese cable may become the "dot" on the "i" regarding the sound of your system.

The Harmonix X-DC350M2R cable is very stiff, so it can be a bit cumbersome to place it behind the system. You will need more space compared to other, more elastic cables.

But this little shortcoming will be by far compensated with the sound it offers! With every minute of listening I came to the conclusion, that the X-DC350M2R is one

of the best I have ever tested. I think, that it will take a lot of time, before I can encounter any power cords come close in this price level.

by Arkadiusz Ogrodnik



Verdict

Quality of sound



Price/Performance



Manufacturing quality



Performance



General assessment



POSITIVES: Unrestricted freedom and organic sound, splendid control, phenomenal musicality and tremendous transparency.

NEGATIVES: Stiffness, limiting the maneuvering space in more tight setups.

GENERAL: For the users of hi-end systems, requiring the highest class of cabling. Very transparent, so it does not limit the sound capabilities of high quality audio systems.