



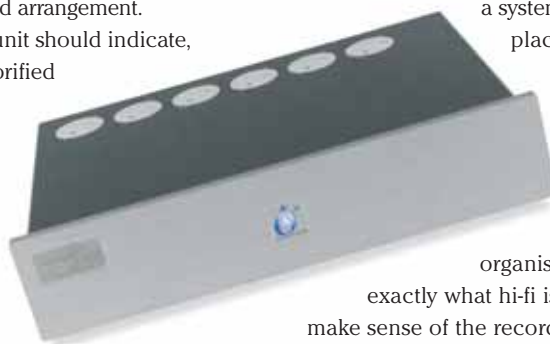


Nordost Thor Mains Distribution Unit

by Roy Gregory

We've long been saying that your mains supply is the foundation on which your system's performance is built. With the arrival of the Thor mains distribution unit, Nordost have finally completed a wiring loom that started with the Valhalla interconnects and speaker cables, meaning that we can finally hear the benefits of a coherent, micro mono-filament set up that employs the technology throughout the system in the optimum, star-earthed arrangement.

However, as the price of the unit should indicate, Thor is much more than just a glorified six-way block. In an unusual show of common sense (at least as far as the hi-fi industry is concerned) Nordost have taken their proprietary technology, including some rather fancy circuitry that as far as I can hear, effectively "re-clocks" the mains without actually being in line (that's my description, not theirs') and combined it with Isotek, acknowledged experts in the field of mains distribution. The end result is a very pretty box that makes a bold statement as far as the priority you should give your mains goes. By building a full-width, full depth chassis, what they're saying is that you need to treat and support this unit with exactly the same care and attention you lavish on your amplifier. Nor is it just an empty box, puffed with self-importance. Wired internally with Valhalla mains cable, there's also considerable parallel filtering inside, designed to deal with RF pollution without interrupting the line itself. Add that alongside Nordost's own particular tricks and



there's not a lot of space left. Internally, each and every leg is starred, further adding to both the conceptual simplicity and the constructional nightmare. Open the stainless steel casework if you like, but when it comes to reassembly you're on your own.

All that effort hasn't been wasted. Thor makes such a fundamental difference to the sound of a system that it demands primacy of place in the mains hierarchy. Thor with standard leads will sound better than Vishnu with a conventional extension block or straight out of the wall. The sense of expressive ease, purity and above all, organisation that it brings to music is exactly what hi-fi is all about. What Thor does is make sense of the recording, turning information into a performance. Add the mains leads and finally they've got a firm footing to work from, revealing their true capabilities for the first time. Thor can't turn a bad system into a good one, but start from the security of this foundation and you'll be astonished by the potential that exists in even quite modest components. It really should be the first name you put on the team sheet.

Price: £1600

Manufacturer: Nordost Corporation
Tel. (44)(0)1352 730251 (UK)
Tel. 001 (508) 881 1116 (US)
Net. www.nordost.com

