



Brings everything into a sharper focus with better shape, definition & clarity

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Pros: Cost effective coaxial & optical digital source cleaner

Cons: Not for mobile use, adds extra wires & connector leads into your system



Review Details:

Audio Quality

Design

Value

What does the SPDIF iPurifier do ?

The goal of the SPDIF iPurifier is to clean up the jitter & electrical noise in digital input so that the DAC will more accurately convert it to the music output that you listen to.

So what does it actually do ?

It re-clocks the digital audio signal, galvanically isolates the DAP from the DAC and uses a Femto clock to provide better timing of the bitstream, together with an ultra clean power source. It doesn't change the bit size though.

I was interested in trying it out because the SPDIF iPurifier works on coaxial & optical data which is what I use to feed by Chord Hugo most of the time rather than USB inputs. The unit is also a lot cheaper than the W4S Remedy Reclocker. In the circumstances, I contacted Ifi Audio and they let me try out one.

Product design and contents

The first thing that you notice when you open the box is the number of connectors and cables included. The second is how small the device itself actually is. It is beautifully put together (akin to Apple style packaging) and look & feels to be a quality designed and built product. You should be able to connect your DAP and DAC to the SPDIF iPurifier using one of the many

connectors supplied but whilst there is an illustration showing the input and output sockets on the SPDIF iPurifier, they are no instructions as to what each connector does and I needed some help in getting the system to work when using the optical input. All in all it comes nicely packaged and definitely gives the impression of being a quality product.

It only runs off mains power, so despite the fact its size would be suitable for portable use, you are unable to do so. Once you get the hang of it, the unit is fairly simple to use. It has a coaxial input connection at one end from your digital source, which doubles up as an optical input, since this can also read optical data using one of the connectors they supply. At the other end, it has a coaxial output connector. On the side of the unit you have an optical only output and another slot into which the power supply connector fits.



Sound improvements ??

I have now had it for three months. Does it make a difference ? The answer yes and in a good way, but how much depends on the medium you are listening to.

Using the SPDIF iPurifier between my Ibasso DX90 & Chord Hugo via coaxial input and then into my Fatman SET 202 Amplifier and into Stereo Speakers, there was a noticeable improvement. Everything was brought into a sharper focus, the bass became deeper, the cymbals crisper and there was a general greater level of silk smoothness to the music. It had better shape and definition, and a bigger soundstage, which in turn meant better separation.

A couple of examples.

I was listening to After on Second Life Syndrome by the Polish prog band Riverside (great band by the way), and Mariusz Duda's whispered intro literally seemed to jump out into the room at me and all the other instruments were more clearly defined. Interestingly, it gave the impression of being louder than when not using the IFI Purifier, which I assume was due to the greater focus.

On Yes' Awaken, the music had an extra creamy silky smoothness when listening to Wakeman's synthesisers. Alan White's percussion sounded crisper.

When using the SPDIF iPurifier into headphone whether into my Beyerdynamic T90s or Shure SE846s, I did not hear as noticeable a difference. It did seem to be more "musical" but the extent of the sharper focus that I could hear through stereo speakers was much less apparent.

This could be because in my opinion headphones aren't so good as speakers at determining instrument separation, image/focus or the 3D holographic soundstage of the music being listened to.

CONCLUSION

- * Brings everything into a sharper focus
- * With better shape, definition & clarity
- * Increased separation and wider soundstage.
- * 10% improvement

Although, Chord's Hugo is designed to be pretty much immune from jitter, the SPDIF iPurifier was able improve the sound by cleaning up the source through its re-clocking and galvanic isolation. Logically it would make even more difference with DACs where jitter is a bigger problem. At £145, it's the most competitive coaxial or optical "data cleaner" in the market. This is a hobby where users are looking for step by step improvements and certainly for the speaker set up, the SPDIF iPurifier noticeably delivers. For me it's a keeper.