

audiolab DC BLOCK Silver

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DC mains supply

One common issue is 'DC on the mains' – a problem well known to affect the performance of audio equipment, especially amplifiers. In theory, the mains electricity we obtain from the sockets in our homes should be pure AC, with a perfectly symmetrical sine wave alternating between positive and negative phases. However, the presence of 'asymmetrical loads' – myriad household devices that use the AC energy available in the mains cycle unevenly, from dimmer switches to kitchen appliances to computer power supplies – causes the waveform to become offset, resulting in the presence of DC voltage on the AC supply.

Overview

DC Voltage

The AC transformers commonly used in home audio equipment cannot tolerate the presence of significant levels of DC voltage without being compromised. Less than 500mV of DC – typical in an average household electricity supply – can be sufficient to cause toroidal transformers of the kind often found in amplifiers to become saturated, which adversely affects sonic performance and may cause audible mechanical vibration.

By blocking, or canceling, DC voltage found within the AC mains supply, the Audiolab DC Block corrects the DC offset and rebalances the mains sine wave (see illustration above). But tackling 'DC on the mains' is not the only benefit delivered by this dual-action device – it also contains a high-performance audio class filtering circuit that removes RFI/EMI contaminants from the mains supply. This is effective in reducing both differential-mode noise (exacerbated by cheap switch-mode power supplies used by many home appliances) and common-mode noise (aggravated by airborne interference from phones, Wi-Fi networks, and Bluetooth).

Overview

This combination of technologies ensures that the DC Block does more than solve the problem of transformer saturation caused by DC on the mains; it also helps to unlock the sonic potential of any audio component to which it is connected. The noise floor drops and the sound gains greater focus, with reduced grain, improved clarity, better-defined bass, and 'airier' treble.

Simple setup

Using the DC Block is simple - plug its output into the IEC power socket of an audio/AV component, then connect its input to a mains socket (both cables are provided). The device is designed for use with a single audio or AV system component - Audiolab recommends that if one DC Block is purchased, it should be used with the integrated amp or power amp component within the user's system to obtain the greatest benefit from the DC-blocking technology. If desired, further units may be purchased to use with other electronics in the system - preamps, source components, and so on. With each additional DC Block, further incremental improvements in overall system performance can be expected.

Power Requirement:	100-240V ~ 50-60Hz
Peak Load :	600VA
Audio Power Amplifier Compatibility	<2x150W or <1x 300W
Dimensions (W x H x D):	113 x 59 x 140(mm)
Weight (net):	0.7 kg