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**Ansuz Mainz8  
D-TC 3 Power Distributor**



Attach the cables, respecting the correct phase on the power plug, and choose a stable location for the **Mainz8 D-TC3 Power Distributor**. Then simply sit back and listen to the amazing difference.

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CHALLENGING = ■ A component is 100% intuitive if you can exploit its potential to the full intuitively.  
 INTUITIVE = ■

## Ansuz Mainz8 D-TC 3 Power Distributor

# THE PINNACLE

By Hans von Draminski. Photography: Ingo Schulz

ANSUZ IS CONSCIOUSLY PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE. INSTEAD OF GOING ALL-IN, THIS DANISH COMPANY PREFERS UTILIZING CAREFULLY SELECTED MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES TO EXTRICATE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE FROM THE SIGNAL. AND THEIR APPROACH APPEARS TO BE RIGHT ON THE MARK. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF THE HIGH-END POWER DISTRIBUTOR MAINZ8 D-TC3, THIS DOESN'T COME CHEAP.











\_\_\_\_\_ For me, the power supply always represented the final frontier of sound quality. The equipment might be the best that money could buy, and the speakers painstakingly optimized for the electronics, but the mediocre power supply in my part of town, and particularly in my aging building, meant that I could never reach the heights I craved. I made many attempts at remedying this situation: isolation transformers, mains filters and power conditioners came and went, some achieving a degree of success, others very little.

And so I never expected the Mainz8 D-TC3 Power Distributor from Ansz Acoustics to have such a dramatic effect. The unit is essentially unspectacular to look at. It has no dials, no LEDs, no bells and whistles, yet it is still the most important component I have ever added to my stereo system. This black box with the leather-covered lid—a clever way of avoiding vibrations—is the true apotheosis of the power strip. The housing is made entirely of non-magnetic materials to eliminate any current-flow disturbances. And with output sockets for eight

components, it allows for additions moving forward. However, it's not just hi-fi journalists who are known for testing such apparently generous boundaries. With a preamp, power amp, phono amplifier, DAC, CD player, streamer and other odds and ends, soon there won't be any free sockets on even the Mainz8 D-TC 3.

The Danish manufacturer prides itself on having the best grounding technology today. Although I can't check this at home, I'm firmly inclined to believe it. Once I attached the power distributor, I couldn't hear the slightest noise or humming from my chain: the Mark Levinson No. 27 together with the No. 38S preamp and the No. 390S CD player from ML's time at Madrigal. Another special feature of this grounding concept is the white socket in middle of the strip—known as the “star ground”. This should be used for the component with the most connections to other appliances, normally the preamp or integrated amp. The socket hierarchy cascades down to the left and right. My No. 27 has to make do with one of the outer sockets.



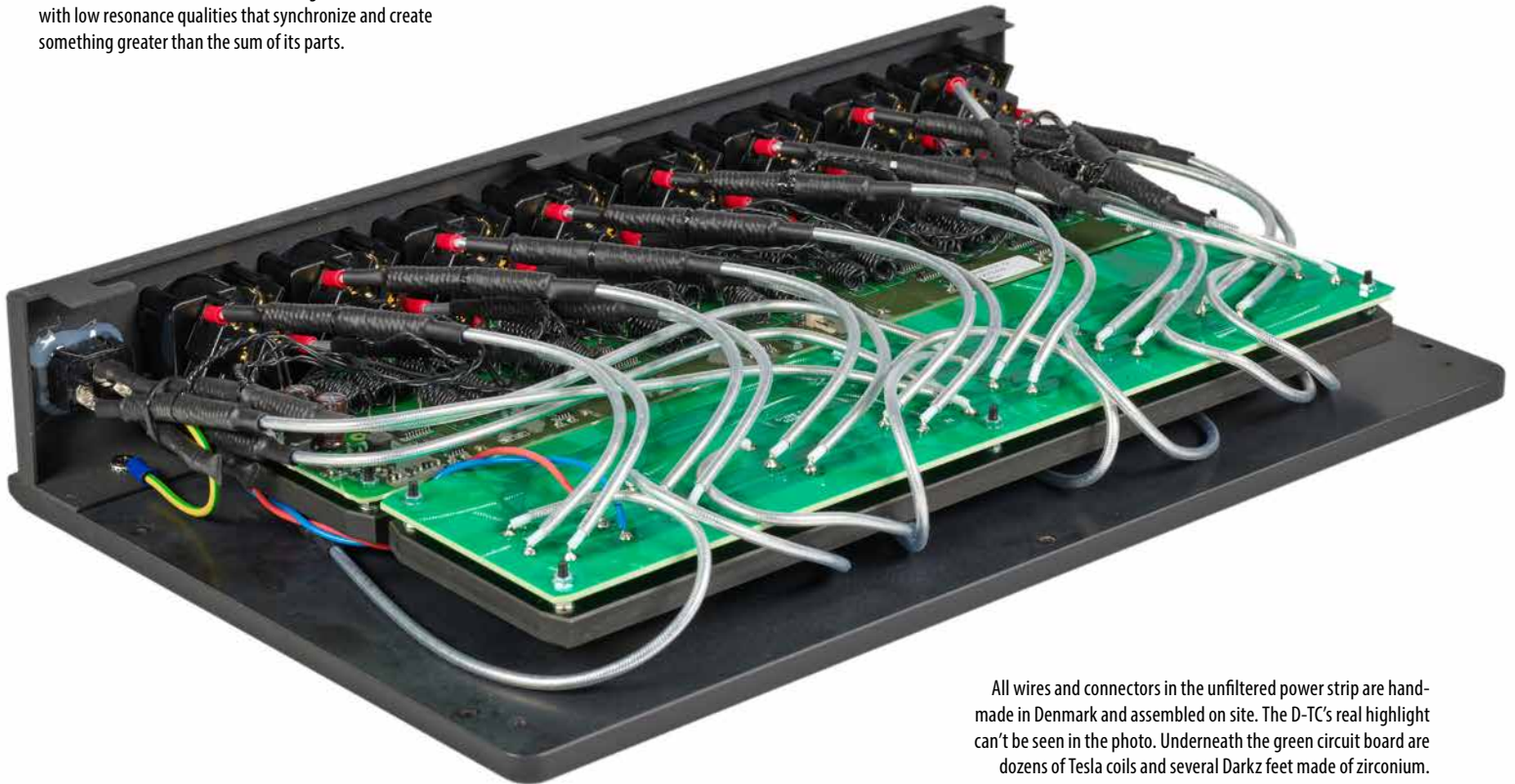
The white outlet strikes the tune! It's the "star point" with the best ground impedance, and every socket in the power distributor is grounded from here. This central white outlet should be used for the audio component with the most connections to other appliances—usually the preamp or integrated amplifier. In digital systems, it's normally the DAC. From there, the hierarchy cascades down to the outer sockets—first sources, then power amps and active loudspeakers.

Many of my earlier power conditioners or filters differed from this. But worse was their tendency to have an undesirable dampening and homogenizing effect, particularly in the case of dynamic music with fast impulses.

"Filtering often has a detrimental effect on dynamism", says Morten Thyrrstrup, Sales Manager at Ansuz, who also adds: "Conventional power filters increase the induction—and this flattens the music." This is an opinion shared by Michael Børresen, Head of Development at Ansuz. As mentioned above, he distinctly emphasizes exemplary grounding. Børresen stresses that "all connected equipment should have an equal potential". This is why the grounding in the Mainz8 D-TC 3 is star shaped. Together with many other tricks and techniques, it reduces the noise floor to the point that it's practically indiscernible. This is just one of many reasons why the sound emitted by the speakers appears to stand out against a much blacker background. Anyone asking why the Mainz8 D-TC 3, an unassuming black box, costs the princely sum

of € 24,000, should try to calculate how many thousands of hours went into its development, or even just the time necessary for the final listening tests. Or perhaps they can estimate how much investment it takes to hand-build this graceful metal construction in a high-wage country like Denmark. Absolutely nothing is off-the-shelf in the D-TC 3. On the contrary, it stems from countless liters of blood, sweat and tears. Likewise, induction also forms a barrier to current flow. To keep this as low as possible, Ansuz uses double-inverted Tesla coils connected in parallel—looking like tiny, artfully intertwined climbing ropes. Noise is also tackled via the manufacturer's constantly evolving dither technology. The basic idea behind this was developed during the Second World War, so as to hone the recently introduced radar systems and simplify the detection of enemy ships and planes. It works similarly to a polarization filter in photography. "When the first radar stations went into operation, scientists noticed that the signals became stronger when other equipment around them was running, and so presumably ▶

Hand-wound, hand-assembled, hand-picked: the D-TC is made from a combination of non-magnetic materials with low resonance qualities that synchronize and create something greater than the sum of its parts.



All wires and connectors in the unfiltered power strip are hand-made in Denmark and assembled on site. The D-TC's real highlight can't be seen in the photo. Underneath the green circuit board are dozens of Tesla coils and several Darkz feet made of zirconium.

disrupting the signal”, Michael Børresen explains. Consequently, once most of the noise has been eliminated, Ansuz adds a small amount of its own to ensure a tiny, continuous signal modulation. Michael Børresen compares this to holding the splayed fingers of a hand over a page of text: “If you don’t move your hand, you can only read part of the text. But if you wave it back and forth, you can read everything.” When we recall that this box purports “only” to optimize power supply, the effect it has is even more remarkable. The Mainz8 D-TC 3 Power Distributor delivers crystalline sound that remains punchy, open and dynamic, with no indications of softening. And because Michael Børresen has also eliminated vibrations from his superb Mainz8 through careful material selection and housing design (“vibrations are disastrous for the sound”), the connected hi-fi system remains unaffected and can work its magic like never before. In addition, there are the meticulous details, such as the carefully molded cold-device socket for the main connection, or the leather-covered lid mentioned above.

I recently acquired the first two remastered installments of Wagner’s *Ring*, conducted by Georg Solti and re-released by Decca on SACD and LP. But even spectacular recordings like these—perfectly balanced in dimensionality and sound—are significantly improved by the Mainz8. They achieve an almost holographic 3D quality and a previously unparalleled transparency. Fans of pop, blues and rock music

will flock to these bone-dry bass impulses. The Mainz8 D-TC3 Power Distributor “rejuvenates” my semi-vintage equipment so magically that the bass on Peter Gabriel’s *So*, the most popular test CD during the 1990s, sounds incredibly deep, rich and powerful, yet still crystal-clear. More so, Gabriel’s voice displays so formidably as to give the listener goosebumps. I recommend anyone who has a really solid chain to hear for themselves the amazing improvements that this power distributor can bring. ■

#### Power distributor | Ansuz Mainz8 D-TC 3 Power Distributor

**Concept:** pure power distributor, no delay from filtering | **Input:** 1 x 230/110 V (IEC C14) | **Outputs:** 8 x Schuko outlets, gold-plated | **Special features:** Tesla coil technology, dithering circuitry, non-magnetic housing | **Dimensions (W/H/D):** 51/10/30 cm | **Weight:** 8 kg | **Warranty period:** 2 years (5 years after registration) | **Price:** approximately € 24,000

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#### ACCOMPANYING EQUIPMENT

**Network player/DAC:** Esoteric N-01XD | **CD player:** Mark Levinson No. 390S | **Turntables:** Clearaudio Innovation Compact, Artkustik Seismograph | **Cartridges:** Clearaudio Da Vinci and Jubilee MC, Denon DL-103R | **Phono amplifier:** Clearaudio Balance V2 | **Preamplifiers:** Cambridge Audio Edge NQ, Mark Levinson No. 38S | **Integrated amplifiers:** Mark Levinson No. 5805, Aavik U-380, Trigon Exxceed | **Power amplifiers:** Cambridge Audio Edge M, Mark Levinson No. 27 | **Loudspeakers:** Infinity Kappa 7.2 Series II, SoundSpace Systems Aidoni | **Cables:** in-akustik, AudioQuest and Silnote Audio, among others