



IsoTek Evo3 Mosaic Genesis

Power conditioning remains a somewhat controversial issue in the audio world. While most will acknowledge that the quality of the power received from your typical household AC wall outlet is of variable quality at best, and downright noisy and dirty at worst, not many will actually do something about it.

There is of course the notion that most audio components have integrated power supplies and regulators that are meant to address these AC anomalies – which should make the investment in a separate power conditioner unnecessary.

There are also concerns that those conditioners can ‘choke’ the sound because of excessive passive filtering, thereby hindering the flow of sufficient power to an amplifier for instance, and robbing it of pace and impetus in the process.

In my experience, power conditioning can and does make a positive difference.

Just how big that difference is will depend on a variety of factors: the native quality of the household’s AC power; the actual power demands of a component or a system; and how good the component’s own, internal power regulation is.

Let’s briefly distinguish between conditioners and regenerators. A conditioner, like IsoTek’s own Evo3 Titan, is a sophisticated filter or power cleaner that removes mains noise from the incoming power, and delivers a clean stream of power to the electronics connected to it.

By comparison, power regeneration effectively recreates the incoming power, as opposed to filtering it. In the case of IsoTek’s Mosaic and Ultimate components, this regeneration is achieved through sine wave generation, which creates a new, clean stream of low-THD, voltage regulated power.

The IsoTek Evo3 Mosaic Genesis is a hybrid power conditioning device that combines three medium-output power

outlets offering power regeneration for source components with two power-conditioned, high-current, high-output outlets for power-hungry devices like integrated amps, power amps and active speakers.

Technologically, the regenerative outlets reflect the same low-THD, sine wave-generating approach found in IsoTek’s flagship Ultimate Series Genesis power conditioner, while the conditioned high-current outlets use a simplified version of the top-end Super Titan’s direct-coupled conditioning network.

The Evo3 Mosaic Genesis looks more like a power amp than a power conditioner. The all-metal enclosure features extruded, sculpted panels, an integrated heat sink, and a shape that’s deeper than its wide.

The narrow form factor means you could fit two of these next to each other on a typical component rack. It will have to be sturdy, though: the IsoTek weighs a healthy 20 kg.



The recessed fascia has a power button and an illuminated LCD display that can show the voltage, frequency and THD percentage of the incoming power, as well as the voltage, frequency and THD of the treated, regenerated output power.

At the rear, an IEC C20 power socket accepts power from the wall outlet via a supplied IsoTek power cable. The two high-current power outlets are clearly marked in red.

According to IsoTek, the Mosaic Genesis mains regenerator creates a completely new sine waveform that is synchronous with the incoming mains to prevent beat frequencies in the newly created power stream.

This signal is then amplified by a Class AB amplifier and fed to an output transformer featuring copper foil between the primary and secondary outputs to isolate it from noise and distortion.

The resulting continuous available power output is 150 watts, peaking at 200 watts, while the output voltage is maintained at 230 V/50 Hz with a less than 2 percent variance. Typical noise reduction is 85 dB, extending all the way to zero Hz.

The two high-current outlets employ IsoTek's proprietary Direct-Coupled conditioning technology. It offers optimal high-current, low-impedance without any change to the transient and dynamic characteristics of the components it delivers its power to. IsoTek claims up to 75 dB of RFI noise reduction.

Internal wiring is IsoTek's latest, solid-core wire, employing ultra-pure, ohno-continuous cast (UP-OCC) copper. The copper wire is silver-plated and Teflon-insulated, with an air dielectric in between. The circuit design ensures equal resistance and equal power delivery to all power outlets, with no inter-outlet interference.

In addition, the Evo3 Mosaic Genesis also offers a full 99 000 Amps of instantaneous surge protection.

Yes, it's a lot of bumph to digest, and there's even more on the IsoTek website at www.isoteksystems.com for those with a soft spot for lab coats and ring-bound technical reports. I opted for the listening



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VITAL STATS

Mains voltage	240 VAC / 50 – 60 Hz
Available power: regenerative outlets	150 watts continuous, 200 watts peak
Available power: conditioned outlets	4 600 watts continuous, 20 000 watts transient
Outlet type	5x Schuko
Mains input	20A IEC C19
Surge resilience	99 000 Amps instantaneous
Dimensions (WxHxD)	225 x 225 x 470 mm
Weight	20,0 kg
Price	R149 900

Verdict
The proof is in the listening – and it's incontrovertible.

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OUR RATING: 82 / 100





room, where the Evo3 Mosaic Genesis was added to the IsoTek Evo3 Aquarius already on permanent power conditioning duty.

From that, you'll gather that I do believe that power conditioning, if done right, can make a critical difference to the performance of a component, simply by ensuring that the AC power delivered conforms to the parameters the components was designed for.

The Aquarius performs this task more than admirably, and I was interested to find out if the much more expensive, more sophisticated Evo3 Mosaic Genesis would be able to deliver further improvements.

The big difference – and it is a big one – was achieved by the regenerative half of the IsoTek. I used the three regenerative outlets to power up our Primare PRE32/MM30 pre-amp, the Marantz SA-KI Pearl Lite SACD player, and the Bryston BD-3 D/A converter.

However, I initially left the Parasound Halo A21 power amp plugged into the Evo3 Aquarius. Loudspeakers were the ultra-revealing Vivid Audio B1Ds (review pending).

The change in sound was significant and instantly recognisable. Listening to the title track off blues ace Johnny Lang's *Lie To Me* (A&M CD), the bass guitar had more presence and momentum, the snare drum acquired some extra attack, and Lang's sometimes off-hand vocals gained purpose and conviction.

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Thinking that I was imagining things, I switched to the smoother, lazier blues of Robben Ford on *A Day In Nashville* (Provogue CD). Ford's guitar is always tuneful and rich in timbre and texture, but with the assistance of the Mosaic Genesis, that same guitar sounded more succinct and more focussed.

The fluid ease and warmth of the guitar was retained, but it took up a more commanding position on the soundstage, while the backing band's contribution came under closer scrutiny, too.



The intuitive interplay between bass and percussion was much more apparent, and subtle elements, such as the brief appearance of a pair of trombones halfway through the track, were suddenly, thrillingly brought into sharper focus.

Again, there was a sense of hearing and experiencing more of the music: the instruments sounded bolder, the tonal hues were more finely graded, and the performers seemed to command the soundstage with more presence.

However, when I swapped the Parasound power amp's power cable from the Evo3 Aquarius to one of the Genesis' high-current outlets, there wasn't a marked change. The flow of music remained effortless, and there wasn't any notable reduction in grain.



The sound was still vivid and full-bodied, accompanied by the same beguiling, open-window clarity that invited a rediscovery of even some of my favourite albums.

However, when I plugged the Parasound directly into one of the studio's AC wall outlets, the role of the Mosaic Genesis high-current outlets became abundantly clear. The music sounded edgier and grubbier, while some momentum and tonal range was also lost in the process.

It's a feather in the cap of the Evo3 Aquarius that its power conditioning talents appear to get so close to those of the Mosaic Genesis' high-current outlets. But it's the combination of those regenerative outlets and the conditioned high-current outputs that makes the Evo3 Mosaic Genesis the standout product it is.

Not everyone can afford to spend this kind of money on power conditioning, but the good news is that the IsoTek Evo3 range offers an extensive line-up of power conditioning products at more accessible price points, albeit mainly focussed on conditioning.

However, if you want the combination of power regeneration and conditioning in a single, potent package, and you have a system good enough to warrant the asking price, consider the IsoTek Evo3 Mosaic Genesis a worthy long-term investment.

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