

A good friend, who happened to be an Electrical Engineer, once told me that the power that we pay for through the supply into the house is so “dirty” that it is a wonder that we are able to hear or see anything decent through our much-cherished hifi systems and televisions. By “dirty” he meant high frequency noise that was preventing our systems being supplied with “clean” power and the benefits that would ensue, I mean with our listening enjoyment. True, some designers of amplifiers and DACs will pay some heed to this noise in their power supply circuitry, but most attention and budget would be spent mostly on the amplification or digital to analogue conversion.

In recent years there has been an increase in the availability of audio grade power conditioners and power regenerators, all with the claim of reducing/eliminating the “dirty” noise in our home power supplies before it reaches our equipment and then of course to our ears.

A month or so ago I was given the opportunity to audition and review the new, just been released Chord Company M6 mains block. What sets this six outlet power block out from the crowd is the use of Chord’s GroundARRAY technology successfully used with their cables and GroundARRAY plug in modules (for use in unused inputs on audio equipment for example RCA, USB and ethernet).

According to the Chord web site, The Chord Company PowerHAUS mains block is the distillation of decades working with signal and power transfer and benefits from a unique version of their acclaimed ARAY technology (MainsARRAY) which has been specially adapted for power distribution.

The PowerHAUS blocks benefit from specially selected, high-quality, heavy-gauge cables throughout, with sockets chosen not just for their reliability, but also their sound performance. A high-performance 16-amp IEC allows the PowerHAUS blocks to cope with even the most demanding home audio systems. Chord claims that the Powerhaus M6 has been designed to minimise HF and earth noise.



Build quality is superb as we have come to expect from The Chord Company, the unit is rather large at L 600mm x W 110mm x H 77mm (incl feet). The unit is supplied with a hefty 2m 16amp cable, with high quality connectors. All visible components are of the highest quality.

Since around 2000 I have used various PS Audio power regenerators, at present a Stellar P3. The benefits were obvious then and still are, deeper bass, wider sound stage and more detail by isolating audio/visual equipment from the grid, thereby reducing mains borne noise, hence the noise floor and for audiophiles that means we hear more. So it was going to be an interesting test for the PowerHaus M6.

I also use an English Electric EE8 ethernet switch, further reducing the noise floor via the digital audio signal as my system is purely network based using ethernet data management, plus my speaker cables have ferrite core RF noise reduction devices fitted and my speakers sit on Townshend podiums that isolate all but eliminate noise transfer from the speaker to the floor and the floor from the speaker.

My first test was to listen to my system without the PS Audio P3. After disconnecting my kit (not the EE8 that remained connected to the P3 plugged into another house socket as it was power on test not

data) and plugging it all into a standard, off the shelf Amazon sourced 4 outlet power board (from the same house socket usually used by the P3) and started playing music via Tidal/Roon.

It was immediately obvious during this period that the sound of my system had changed dramatically. The soundstage had collapsed, bass was flabby and had lost some depth plus the amount of inner detail I am used to was lost. Pace, Rhythm and Timing (PRaT factor) all sadly lacking.

No point in listening to this configuration any more, I removed the standard 4 outlet board, plugged in my system to the M6 and put on Radio Paradise via Tidal/Roon for a few days to allow the components to settle in for a while.

So what did I listen to?

I have a various albums that I use for reviews. I know these albums and tracks well and chose them for their fine recording quality but also for musical enjoyment and the ability to draw the listener in.

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Album</b>	<b>Track</b>	<b>Source</b>
Cat Stevens	Tea For The Tillerman	<i>On The Road To Find Out</i>	TIDAL FLAC 48kHz 24bit 2ch MQA 192kHz
Nils Lofgren	Acoustic Live	<i>Keith Don't Go</i>	TIDAL FLAC 44.1kHz 16bit 2ch
Nick Warren	La Fabrica (EP)	<i>La Fabrica (Club Mix)</i>	TIDAL FLAC 44.1kHz 16bit 2ch
The Staves	Mexico	<i>Mexico</i>	TIDAL FLAC 44.1kHz 16bit 2ch MQA 44.1kHz

First impressions were favourable, for a start all of my system attributes lost using the standard 4 outlet power board returned, allowing a more relaxed and informative listening experience to return to my listening room!

The PRaT factor had returned and I was once again able to hear music that I could enjoy and it was so much easier to listen to, artists were so much clearer in the mix with wider soundstage and deeper more articulate bass.

For example, the intro to the Cat Stevens track was a lot clearer, the acoustic guitar interplay easier to follow and appreciate, his background vocals much clearer.

Nick Warren is a master at creating sonic soundscapes, on La Fabrica (Club Mix) he mixes vocals with electronic sounds in an almost mesmerising fashion. Drum beats dominate up to the 1minute 30 second point when deep bass cuts in and drives the track thereafter. It was noticeable with the M6 that the bass was far more articulate and the vocals much smoother.

I noticed that on the Nils Lofgren Keith Don't Go his guitar playing seemed more relaxed if that makes sense? The audience were more noticeable.

The Staves appeared to be more in harmony with each other more the timbre of each of the sisters voices more discernible.

Other than using the PS Audio regenerators and conditioners I had not heard any other noise reduction device for power supply before. At just under £2000.00 the Powerhaus M6 is competing with the PS Audio Stellar P3 but it more than holds its own in this reviewers opinion providing a vastly superior performance over standard power distribution boards.

My system:

**Equipment -**

Sky Broadband copper/fibre hybrid  
Innuos Zenmini III plus Innuos LPSU  
NAD M10 streaming amplifier (Dirac pro in use)  
PS Audio Stellar P3 power regenerator  
Usher Mini Dancer 2 loudspeakers  
Townshend Audio Seismic Podiums  
Three tier Atacama Vogue bamboo equipment stand  
English Electric EE8 ethernet switch

**Cables:**

<b>Route</b>	<b>Manufacturer/Model</b>	<b>Termination</b>
ADSL to Sky Hub	High Speed generic (non directional)	RJ11
Sky Hub to EE8 switch	Audioquest Vodka (directional)	RJ45
EE8 to Innuos Zenmini III	Audioquest Vodka (directional)	RJ45
EE8 to NAD M10	Curious Ethernet Cable (directional)	RJ45
Speaker cables – main single wire	Black Rhodium Proto 3200 complete with ferrite RF reduction	Locking bananas
Speaker cables – jumpers	Black Rhodium Proto 3200	Locking bananas/spade
Power cables	Nanotec Strada 309 (custom made)	Furutech gold plated both ends with gold plated fuses