

# SUONO APRIL 2022

## ACCESSORIES - Anszuz Sparkz, Sortz and Mainz C2

Author: Nicola Candelli



The brands Anszuz Acoustics (cables and accessories), Børresen Acoustics (loudspeakers), and Aavik Acoustics (amplifiers) are part of Audio Group Denmark and are imported by DP Trade from Turin. All three brands were born out of a thirty-year friendship of Lars Kristensen (marketing) and Michael Børresen (chief designer). Both had previously worked with Nordost for several years and founded the Raidho brand in 2001. After many successful years and with a wealth of experience, they both then left Nordost and Raidho to start their own brands (Anszuz, Aavik and Børresen).

With Anszuz Acoustics, their first start-up, Michael and Lars launched audio cables and audio accessories based on unusual and innovative technologies. Their products received much praise and recognition from audio critics. Subsequently, they founded Aavik Acoustics, whose products also stood out for their innovative approach to the world of high-end audio amplifiers. Finally, they founded Børresen Acoustics, with the aim of further raising the technological level in the development of loudspeakers.

Last year, Audio Group Denmark strengthened its team with Flemming Rasmussen, founder and former owner of Gryphon, who together with Michael Børresen and Lars Kristensen now forms a real 'dream team' for the development and design of new high-end products, where, in the case of some top cables, prices can sometimes appear to be unreasonable.

Recently, I've had the opportunity to try out

quite a few accessories similar to those manufactured by Anszuz and intended for mains noise cancellation. So I was curious to test these Anszuz components, as the manufacturer announced a completely different approach to noise cancellation with an unusual and innovative technology.

Along with these accessories, I was also able to test the Mainz C2 power cord, a mid-range cable and almost a natural fit, at least by Anszuz standards!

Let's start with the Sparkz TC2, where the acronym TC stands for Tesla Coil: The Sparkz is similar in shape to other products, the classic cylindrical casing with a Schuko plug that needs to be plugged into an outlet near the audio system or, better, the power strip where the audio equipment is plugged in. However, the reduction of interference and network noise is technologically approached in a different way.

Inspired by Nikola Tesla's coils, Anszuz designed and built the Tesla Coils. These are handmade wire coils that are used in the Sparkz along with several other electronic components.

The effect of the Sparkz TC2 is more pronounced and effective than other products with similar goals. The acoustic results can even better be appreciated by removing the Sparkz again.

The TC2 is able to significantly improve acoustic transparency, darkness between instruments is increased, and voices get more distinctness

and clarity. Lower background noise and finer bass fanning also contribute to less fatigue and stress during prolonged listening.

The Sortz, on the other hand, introduced by Ansuz Acoustics last October, are an absolute novelty: they are used for noise reduction and resonance control. Sortz are shaped like a cylinder, about 8 cm long, available in both RCA and XLR versions. They are plugged into the unused inputs or outputs of the amplifier and thus, according to the manufacturer, improve the electrical grounding.

Ansuz Acoustics attributes the acoustic improvement that Sortz bring to an audio system to the fact that the input jacks and open outputs of electronic equipment are an inexhaustible source of unwanted noise and interference, and behave like antennas that absorb radio frequencies.

Sortz are not even remotely comparable to the metal caps, we normally insert into vacant outlets. They represent a combination of Tesla Coil and Anti-Aerial Resonance Coil technology. They are made with a zirconium core, while their aluminum housing is available in three different styles: Normal, Supreme and Signature.

The top version (Signature) is equipped with an additional zirconium coating for even better acoustic optimization. However, it should be kept in mind that this variant costs double the price compared to the “normal” version.

There were many sensations, I felt when listening: the sound is more transparent, the darkness is palpable, the background noise is reduced and listening is less tiring. Is this effect similar to other accessories? Not really: using Sortz makes the sound more open and multi-layered, the musical message more communicative. More music comes out, and it's the overall listening experience that really makes the difference compared to competing products.

In Patricia Barber's Live at Green Mill, the music evolves after the first three or four seconds, with the atmosphere of the room and the reverberation of the environment captured by the microphones even before the musical message. All these sound elements are immediately reproduced, taking shape and materializing in the listening room, creating the illusion that you are at the Green Mill.

It's a good feeling to experience an authentic sound performance, free of background noise, emerging powerfully from a pitchdark background, expanding in width and depth. So much musical information, previously smothered by noise, now finds its place on a virtual stage.

As mentioned earlier, the price of the Signature version is twice that of the Sortz base version, and one must remember that for the higher price of the Signature version one can buy two “normal” Sortz.

In my opinion, the effect of a pair of “normal” Sortz instead of a single Signature is more incisive: the more accessories used in the system, both Sparkz and Sortz, the more their effect increases (and, unfortunately, therefore the costs!) and the better the result.

Of course, those who can afford it, will not pay attention to these comparisons and will buy the best, certain to have the maximum. But be that as it may, Ansuz Acoustics has managed to present a really very interesting, innovative product.

Regarding the power cord, I can only say that it “metaphorically” blew me away! Compared to other excellent cables of considerable price (around 1500 euros), the Mainz C2 surpasses them in all parameters: cleanliness, definition, solidity and transparency; the bass is thrilling (high resolution and without any reverberation) and has the ability to clearly bring out the subtlest musical nuances coming from a pitch black background with great clarity and precision.

The truly exceptional performance of the C2 cable is reflected in an extraordinary authenticity and a strong sense of a holistic soundstage: undoubtedly one of the most interesting power cables on the market.

Finally, it should be remembered that it is possible to achieve clearly audible improvements even with audio systems that are not necessarily at the absolute top of the range: the combination of Sortz, Sparkz and the C2 power cord has produced results far beyond expectations and, unfortunately, once these Ansuz components are removed from the system, only disappointment remains. It's almost better not to try these audio components in the first place, because if you get carried away, you risk the costs being fatally close to the total costs of the system!

Can these components, considered by many to be secondary, have such a massive impact on the final musical result? Absolutely yes, because they behave like any other audio component that is part of the hi-fi chain, and are clearly better than the “traditional” components, since any source or amplifier, no matter how good, will continue to reproduce music along with a certain level of noise until the noise reduction provided by these components intervenes.

So if you're convinced that a cleaner network is capable of bringing out infinite details, normally obscured by noise, and providing more clearly defined and deeper sounds that are both more relaxed and less hysterical, it's worth making some sacrifices (at least for the Sparkz, and especially for the excellent Sortz) for a guaranteed improved musical experience.

And if someone can also add a C2 cable... what a lucky fellow!