FARAD

power supplies



A Melting Wire, A Body, and Two End-Caps

'on the subject of fuses'

and circuit breakers too...

No matter how raving the reviews, audiophile fuses remain a subject of raised eyebrows, discussion, subjectivity and so on. Clearly hearing the differences between standard and audiophile fuses convinced us they do make a difference. For the worst or the better that is. Some sounded great, some even better, whilst others were disappointing to say the least. What actually was a reservation towards the audiophile fuses was the monetary part. Ranging from perfectly explainable to outrageous to absolutely bonkers (25k USD for the QSA Red-Gold) it became more and more an issue of mentality. Yes, a QSA Silver, Red-Black or Red is something special - there can be no doubt about that, and yes, they do bring a serious upgrade to a component. Still, a melting wire, a body and two end-caps fetching those prices...

Always looking for new and better solutions we found something that caught our attention: Circuit Breakers. Now, there are a few different angles on their operational behaviour but roughly speaking, the sound signatures are quite alike: natural, flowy, spacious, and a commanding 'this is how it sounds and you're going to be very happy about it!'. Better, we had a QSA Silver having a serious hard run for the money in comparison to these circuit breakers. Having found a fully save and great sounding alternative for the traditional fuses it became clear we wanted to shake things up. Enter Thermal Magnetic Circuit Breakers in the realms of Farad Power Supplies. For a more technical and furthers insight reading about TMCB's, click here.

And now, Farad?

A TMCB is unfortunately too expensive for standard fitting into the Super3, so the Super3 will still be delivered with a standard fuse, which can be upgraded to a QSA Blue, Synergetic Research Pink, or a QSA Violet fuse. A separate TMCB-module has been developed and is now available! This module also will be available as a retro-upgrade for all Super3's already on the market.

For the Super6 and Super10 it was a no-brainer. Out with the fuses, in with the TMCB's! Both sounding natural, open, flowy, spacious, well dosed and realistic details and very hard not to sit down for unexpected very lengthy listening sessions...

In addition we found the performance of the TMCB's also very instrumental in our product line-up. The Super3, 6 and 10 now clearly show the DNA they share: Music first! Subsequently followed by the model's individual qualities: the Super3 being the playful 'Benjamin', the Super6 combining bravado and insight. the Super10 an electron microscope and helicopter packed in a single entity.

Impressions in use with the Super3

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QSA Blue and Hifi-Tuning Supreme 3 silver/gold

The entry level upgrade for the Super3. These fuses are very good in letting you experience what a better than standard fuse is capable of. They bring a clean, lively and crisp sound, a stable sound stage with adequate width and depth. With the lowered noise floor the background becomes very dark. In comparison to the standard fuse both offer oxygen to the sound. The Hifi-Tuning has just a little edge over the QSA, therefore we are now moving to this fuse as being the standard entry level upgrade. These fuses are great to use in combination with our copper dc cables. Expect at least around 50 hours of burning in.

SR Pink

After Purple comes Pink. Pricewise a bit above the Purple and well below the Master and boy, does it looks gorgeous! Sometimes work is so much easier when the product looks good and evenly feels good. You just know SR have put effort in this department and wow, does it pay... The Pink outperforms the Purple by a healthy margin. This fuse is about definition, clean highs and subsequently low combined with a expressive mid-range. The stage is very 3-dimesional and harmonious - every element has it's natural time and place. So, we've touched the word 'natural'... and this is what sets the Pink apart from the Purple. The latter being all musical and fun and perhaps a bit big and 'puppy-like', the Pink is much more in control, offering a more natural image, stage and level of detail. To our ears a definitive step forwards! As with the Purple we beg for your patience to give the Pink a burn-in of about 300 hours.

QSA Violet

The upper level fuse we offer for the Super3. Things get serious now. Sound stage is wide and deep, pinpointing comes very easy. Added is a impressive view on noise shaping and distribution of dynamics. Details are rich and many, but the sound never becomes exhausting due to a very natural 'diffuse' edge around them. Sound is really becoming easy flowing and natural in its appearance. When physical space is at a premium and a bigger chassis is out of the question, The QSA Violet would be the choice to get the best performance from your Super3 when using a fuse. Combined with a copper dc cable the Violet offers rich textures and dynamics in jazz and chamber music. Expect around 150 hours of burning in.

TMCB

In our humble opinion the best option for a very flowy and a very natural, easy and playful musical playback. Every element in the sound is tied to its logical position in the huge 3D stage, the timing oh so correct… And all is nested in an incredible relaxed and pitch black background; any suggestion of a back wall in sound reproduction has disappeared. There's no way back once you've heard this upgrade! Expect around 150 hours of burning in.