

# Shunyata Research Omega XC power cord

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**W**hen we reviewed the Everest power distributor in issue 210, we mentioned that it is designed

to work with the Shunyata Research Omega XC power cord. However, time and the number of pages we had to spare precluded talking about Omega XC. Now's the time to address that. Omega XC is notable for being chunky. Make that 'girthy'. But surprisingly flexible.

In making Omega XC, Shunyata Research's Caelin Gabriel set himself a challenge. "Create a power cord for Shunyata Research power conditioners that allows the conditioner to achieve its absolute maximum performance. Remove any and all constraints regarding construction time and difficulty and ignore cost limitations to produce the ultimate power cord." So, no biggie!

### Three years

The Omega XC is the result of that research project that spanned more than three years, involving literally hundreds of tests, designs and construction solutions. The Omega XC features Shunyata Research's VTX-Ag conductors in a hefty four-gauge size.

It's designed using Dynamic Transient Current Delivery (DTCD) analysis. This is a technique that measures instantaneous current through low impedance electrical conductors and contacts. Shunyata Research uses it to optimise

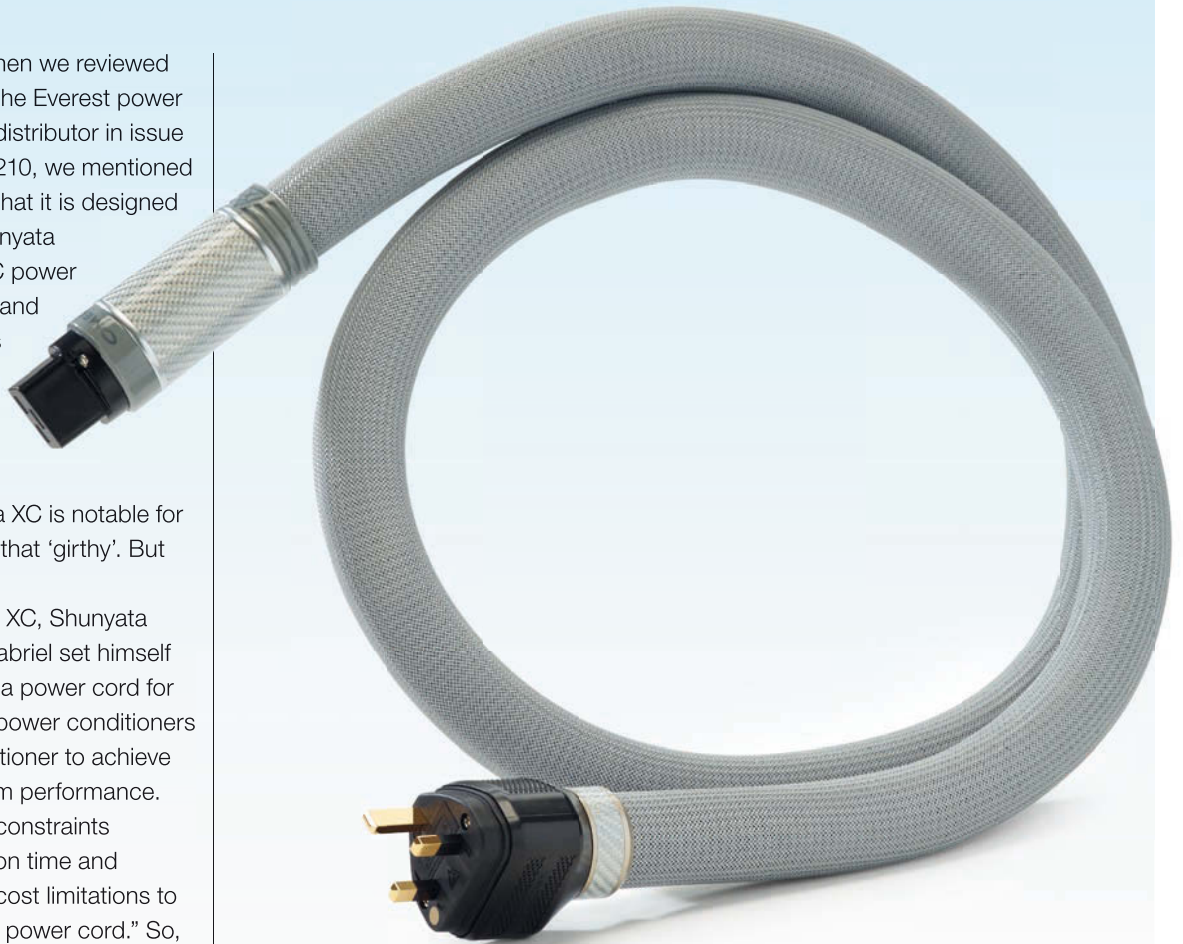
the design, specification and construction of parts and materials to ensure maximum current delivery performance. Each part, conductor, noise circuit and material is analysed this way to make a cable capable of maximum throughput of instantaneous current.

Omega XC also uses Shunyata's own CopperCONN connectors. These plugs and sockets use internal metals of solid copper and feature high-tension spring-loaded contacts for vice-like grip. This contributes to a measurable improvement in DTCD analysis described above.

The conductors are Shunyata's VTX-Ag designs. VTX-Ag conductors use an outer tube geometry of the very high purity copper, surrounding an inner core of the purest form of silver.

Shunyata Research's proprietary Kinetic Phase Inversion Process (KPIP) includes four days of continuous processing to dramatically reduce burn-in time and significantly improve sonic performance, delivering a relaxed and life-like presentation. So, running in is done for you and using a burn-in device or disc is not recommended.

The cable comes in three colours both in the outer shield and with





## The Everest 8000 and Omega XC power cord are designed to work together for one good reason, they complete one another.

» Shunyata Research's own true carbon fibre rigid housings at the terminations of the power cord.

### Designed for Everest

This cable is dedicated for power conditioning and is essentially designed for Everest. We used it in both that context and with an IsoTek V5 Aquarius. This is not the sort of grouping we'd recommend (cable costing more than the conditioner is a no-no) but it shows just how far the Omega XC raises the game. The improvement is significant and brings out the qualities of the IsoTek device into sharp focus.

But this isn't where the Omega XC will end up. Now, we get to the Omega XC/Everest 8000 combination, and a state of grace is achieved. Sometimes we talk about synergy in good audio, but this combination sings so well it's more like symbiosis.

It's here where things get really crazy; the level of improvement is substantial even at relatively cheap system levels. If you want a better proof of concept of Caelin Gabriel's assertion that the biggest source of noise is one hi-fi component chattering to another, via their power sockets, hook up a system that costs less than the Omega XC to the Omega XC/Everest 8000 grouping. In my case, this was a Primare I35 Prisma fed by a Naim UnitiCore. The degree of improvement to the background and the sheer integrity of the sound was marked. Sure, only reviewers and dealers wanting to show their low-cost kit at its best would do this, but it shows just what Shunyata is capable of.

The same performance hike happens in more upscale systems even though you are often at a very high altitude to begin with. When you are at the point where well into five figures for



power is a consideration, the Shunyata Everest/Omega XC is there for you.

The presentation of soundstage is immense, with the size and scale of images increased, all the while maintaining their correct physicality. You don't get 50' wide guitars; you get right sized guitars in a larger listening space. It's quite uncanny.

What I found strange about this Shunyata combination (in a truly good way), was that it was tapping into that audio attractor first on each person. By this, I mean if you are drawn to good staging, that's what you notice first here. On the other hand, if it's inner detail and clarity you crave, the Everest/Omega XC lays open the mix. The same with dynamic range, rhythm, coherence, and the rest. What I take this to mean is the improvements are across the board, and it just pushes your buttons in order.

Certainly, in close listening my personal triggers of good rhythm and open, yet precise soundstaging were both enhanced, and exploring different aspects of the musical whole, was like peeling back layers of an onion. Each part of the presentation I focused on was improved, without any tightly discernable marks against it.

The other upside to this is it makes most products more like their archetype. You don't spend money on a top-notch and characterful CD player, for example, just to have its performance laid flat by an over-equalising power condition and cable. The Shunyata brings out the innate Gryphon-ness of a Gryphon, the Burmestery flavour of Burmester, and so on.

### You complete me!

Finally, we can complete the review from Issue 210. The Everest and Omega XC power cord are designed to work together for one good reason; they complete one another. The Everest requires the best possible power to bring out its best side, and the Omega XC gets out of the way of the juice in a way that every power conditioner would dream of using. Both work with other settings, but this pairing works so well, why change?

You could argue the Shunyata Research Omega XC power cord is a one-trick pony. If so, it's one hell of a trick, and one hell of a pony. It's not designed for any other application apart from running between wall and power conditioner. It works well in those other applications, but there are better power cords for the task, both in and out of the Shunyata line. But if you need what the Omega XC supplies, there is nothing better! +

### Price and contact details

Price £7.000/1.75m as standard

Manufacturer Shunyata Research Inc.

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