

Mark Grant Cables SBooster Squeezebox Power

It's well-known that a 'wall-wart' switched-mode power supply is *not* suitable for high-end audio. However, many pieces of audio equipment are supplied with these types of power supply, including the Squeezebox Duet and Touch. A low cost switched-mode power supply will negatively affect the performance of your audio device due to the ripple and noise that it generates as a result of its inherent design. Indeed, such deficiencies are what prompted me to design my own linear supply for use with my Squeezebox Duet!

However, there is now a low-cost answer to this problem for people who prefer a simple 'plug and play' solution – the SBooster upgrade from Mark Grant Cables. This little device sits between the standard switched-mode power supply and the Squeezebox and

it contains components to reduce the noise on the DC output.

In use

With this device *in situ*, the music sounds far cleaner and more musical; I found it made a very useful improvement. However, if you crave more, the solution is to do away with the supplied switched-mode altogether and replace it with a linear PSU. To this end, Mark Grant Cables supplies precisely this, a PSU that also incorporates the SBooster, for £110. Fitted with this device, the Squeezebox was definitely smoother and had better imaging; any residual harshness with the strings had vanished and bass felt effortless. The SBooster is certainly worth having, although the full Squeezebox PSU elevates the humble Squeezebox to the next level, for a quite modest outlay. **NR**



▶ DETAILS

PRICE: £27.50

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OUR VERDICT

