

# HiDiamond – HDX2 5 Power Distributor

James Duncan – Product Reviewer

The HiDiamond HDX2 5 Power Distributor (RRP £1,460.00 at time of review) is a five way high-performance power distribution unit designed and built in Italy or a “network distributor” as it’s referred to on the manufacturer website.

[http://www.hidiamond.eu/eng/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=97:power-distributors&catid=56&Itemid=101&lang=en](http://www.hidiamond.eu/eng/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=97:power-distributors&catid=56&Itemid=101&lang=en)



## First Impressions and Setup

Having had a number of similar products and in fact comparing to my existing ISOL-8 Substation Integra, I have to say the first impressive aspect pulling this block out of its snug little box was its diminutive size. I loathe giving a power distribution block an entire unit space on my rack, so this little beauty was a pleasant surprise indeed. I was able to situate this on the top rear of my rack and still have space for my DAC/Streamer in front of it. Off to a good start then.

On the back of the block you’ll find your five UK sockets, an IEC inlet and a fuse button to protect from overloading etc. Up front you’ll find a conveniently placed on/off rocker switch and in the middle a decent sized display giving you among other things voltage information.

## Sound

When it comes to filtering, and solutions I've tried in the past, one tends to lose a very vital thing in their use, namely, 'Dynamics'. Lack of dynamics = loss in engagement at an emotional level (the very thing we crave in listening to music, that connection to the music to suit your mood). It's all very well eliminating this that and the other thing, but if you lose the dynamics as well, you'd be as well going back to MP3s and white bud headphones that come with your smart phone of choice. You could have a £40k system and reduce it to a sound no better than a system one quarter of that price if you get the dynamics wrong. Over time I've let my system evolve to the point I'm happy with speakers and electronics partnering, but only in the last few years have I dealt with power. What a mistake that really is, power can and does affect how your system performs. I am no engineer and I would not have a clue about throwing an electronic device on a bench and hooking it up to some instrument to measure anything I could make sense off. So I'm left trusting my ears, and thus far this has served me well.

So how does the HDX perform vs Dynamics? In short and to get straight to the point, amazingly well. This device is a step above my more expensive power conditioner that I've vetted and grown to love given my mains does indeed allow a fair bit of DC to sneak in (causing mechanical hum with the transformer – which also causes heat build up). I now use Less Loss firewall devices that take care of DC and in conjunction with this power block, I've never appreciated the difference power conditioners can have, to lower the noise floor, yet retain those vital dynamics. A placebo effect perhaps, maybe I'm just liking other aspects of it, that I am allowing myself to like it to make it fit? No, definitely not the case at all. If you live with your system for long enough without making any changes, you get to know your favourite recordings extremely well, do your toes tap, do some pieces stun you to become motionless in order to absorb as much of it as possible with minimal distraction? etc. I've chopped and changed enough kit over time to know that just because it looks good, and or costs a lot, does not mean it's going to fit in well and give you those transcendent experiences.

The HDX to my ears elevated my experience of some of the common 'go to' tracks I play when auditioning any bit of kit and I kept it in my system for some weeks listening to as much music and variety of music as I could. Switching back to my own conditioner was not a massive loss, but the differences, especially in terms of dynamics are apparent. While not night and day, I'd say given the cost differences between the two (The HDX being some £500+ cheaper) makes it a very viable product indeed if you are in the market for such a device.

## Summary

There is a lot of opinion on these types of solutions, and many judge on technical criteria, and for them fair enough, I'm not going to disrespect that pursuit. However, if you are like me and you just want to know if it sounds good in your system, then I can unequivocally state that this product does. Given its size and cost, I really could not recommend it enough. If I was in the market for a power distribution block, this one would be on the very small short list for sure.

## Equipment Used

The system used in the review is comprised of: - Auralic Aries Lightning Streaming bridge  
- Lindemann Musicbook: 10 DAC - Audio Physic Codex Loudspeakers – Less Loss Firewall 5X (two of) and Studio Connections Reference cables.

A REALREVIEW by James Duncan

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