

# FURUTECH

## Review

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### Furutech PC-2 Disc Treatment

Slightly smaller in size than the "CD Clarity" bottle, measuring some 5 ½" tall and just ¾" in diameter, the PC-2 fluid is also supplied in its own spray applicator bottle. Mine came packaged with a 7" by 5 ½" purple "micro-fiber" cloth, very much like those now handed out at optical centers to clean your new plastic lenses, and sells for \$32.00. No mention of the actual volume of fluid included in the bottle or approximately how many discs may be treated is made, but the fluid is said to be "an appropriate combination of enzymes and ions," and a purely "natural" product. Further, they say that it is "totally free of pollution causing materials including interface active agents, and chemical skin irritants, this product is both environmental friendly and extremely safe to use." Yet further down on the label it says, "Please rinse with plenty of water when get in contact with eyes." That doesn't sound good, does it? Oh, and it also seems to double as a stain remover if one can believe the rest of the information on package, where it goes on to state, "Simply spray this product directly on the stain and wipe with a clean cloth." I love the vagueness of translation, don't you?

Treatment is identical to that with the "CD Clarity," or most other spray fluids for that matter, and is accomplished in seconds. Like the less expensive "CD Clarity," there is a notable increase in focus and specificity, more harmonic texture, increased warmth with vocals and strings and enhanced bass and midbass resolution.

However, there is a bit more. The use of PC-2 also allows a greater sense of dynamic contrasts. There is also a heightened distinctness of the space of the recording and the venue itself. The music seems to emanate from a quieter, darker background, which is a hallmark of the better fluid treatments I've examined, such as the pricey but exceptional Millennium Q-151 treatment fluid. There is a greater sense of instrumental individuality, perhaps an indication that PC-2 offers a bit more resolution than some of the other fluid treatments, which yields more of an instruments individual musical contribution as well as a more distinct indication as to its physical location within the recording. Regardless, the effects are highly desirable, and among some of the best I've noted with any of the specific fluid treatments I've examined, including Finyl, Clear-Bit, the Disc Doctors Miracle CD Cleaner, In-Sight, the Auric Illuminator fluid, M.A.C.'s Compact Disc Magic and Rain-X, to name just a few.

### Synergy

Now, if you've come to the obvious conclusion that *combining* magnetic, fluid and other treatments is the way to go, give yourself a gold star for the course and take the rest of the day off. The synergy apparent when combining the effects of the Furutech RD-2 and PC-2 or "CD Clarity," while still somewhat subtle when compared to something like a loudspeaker upgrade, is nonetheless a very *musical* improvement. Moreover, don't be afraid to include further treatment with things like your favorite marking pens and or a dynamic balancing mat to further enhance optical disc playback. In fact, it is the application of the combination of such treatments over the past years that has both allowed me a much heightened enjoyment of the medium and saved me from spending the requisite bucks on SACD hard- and software. Those of you who have been deluding yourself that bits are bits and that these kinds of treatments couldn't possibly make a difference have no idea what you've been missing. Quite honestly, Red Book CD's can be made to sound remarkably involving given the combination of tweaks like these and the remarkably high level of performance now readily available from this era's generation of quality and affordable CD playback machines.

In case you dozed off during all of the above ranting, I can strongly recommend all of these products. Though the "CD Clarity" doesn't offer quite the level of enhancement of the more expensive Furutech PC-2 fluid, for its remarkably humble asking price, you owe it to yourself to see just how easy it is to make all those shiny little devils sound or look so much better. I've said it before; these types of treatments should be considered "necessaries," not accessories. Happy listening!

