



# Synergistic Research PowerCell 8 SX

**WINNER**  
POWER PRODUCT OVER £4K



**S**ynergistic Research has considerable experience with mains conditioners, and its talents in the field culminate in the £28,000 Gallileo. At a seventh of that price, the PowerCell 8 SX is unsurprisingly more compact (just over 30cm wide and 12cm tall) and has fewer sockets (eight), but pleasingly it features ideas and technology trickled down from its reference sibling.

The design is built around the company's new EM Cells, which project an electromagnetic field that filters and redirects contaminants, allowing a combination of the proper signal and mechanical energy to pass. They are a new design – the first such revision in many years – that has an increased surface area for greater conditioning power, and benefits further from improved materials and assembly processes and an enhanced ground plane. The PowerCell 8 SX

uses a proprietary mains connection for its inlet cable – the Foundation SX comes as standard but can be upgraded to various models from the Synergistic Research range. These cables are, in themselves, additional treatment devices that often incorporate the company's carbon fibre tuning modules.

### System-spanning improvements

The PowerCell 8 SX makes a positive first impression on Ed Selley right from the outset as he allocates a system's worth of components to it. His Chord Electronics' Hugo TT2 and Mscaler sustained "their outstanding soundstage and tonal realism with no perceptible compromise on the dynamics," while there is a "clear improvement" in the case of the Cambridge Audio Edge A amplifier. And with the Cyrus Phono Signature and Unitra GSH-630 Fryderyk combination, vinyl replay also takes "a significant step forward".

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Reviewed in Issue **248**

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