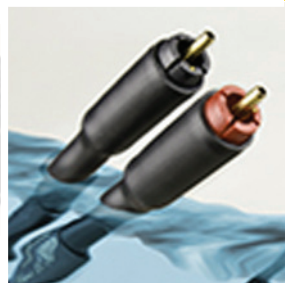
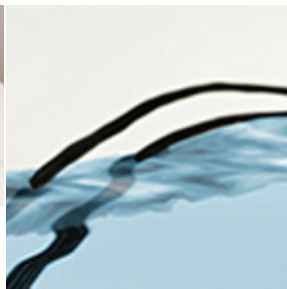


www.highendcable.co.uk



Cable guide for the Audiophile

TEL: 01775 761880



www.highendcable.co.uk

FOREWORD

Until recent years many of the famous and not so famous reviewers maintained that Hi-fi interconnects and speaker cables made no difference and a component upgrade was the way forward. To their many followers this was the answer but they remained blissfully unaware how a poor cable set up, regardless of cost could get in the way of the system performance.

Today I like to think we are more enlightened and although there are a lot of products that I would not wire up a door bell with, there are some beautifully crafted, well engineered cable designs available. Some cables are very affordable and others very highly priced, but a well designed cable will enhance any quality Hi-fi system.

We must not forget that other important factor to a great sounding system, the power supply. Get this right and things will only get better. Gone is the notion that cables budgets should be just 10% of the system value. Dare I say here is a case where the cable budget should be 100% or even more. You only have to go to an ODIN demonstration to justify this comment.

However most of Audiophiles only dream of the top equipment, let alone the top cables, but with careful consideration in the cabling of your system your equipment can be given that chance to present you with its full capabilities.

With many there is that misunderstanding about what is Hi-fi. With respect to those who do not fully grasp the concept, I say that everybody "hears" the music but a Hi-fi enthusiast, the Audiophile, "listens" to the music. We all recognize a song if played on an old transistor radio, old wireless or radiogram. Its just the detail, the emotion, the sheer enjoyment of the artist that is lost with the poorer reproducer.

Most Audiophiles if they are honest will admit that they are never satisfied and still look for that bit more. The right cables and power foundation or a carefully designed tweak, will help them achieve the ultimate goal.

This booklet is designed to provide a few pointers and the writer's opinion on the way establishing a sensibly cabled system should unleash the wonders of your electronics.

Dave

www.highendcable.co.uk
TEL: 01775 761880

Please note this is a guide funded entirely by High End Cable and any adverts within are intended to promote the products available through High End Cable.

Errors and Omissions Excepted

THE POWER FOR THE GLORY

Ask the “not so” Audiophile about their system and they will invariably tell you first about their speakers and how many watts they pump out. The Audiophile will tend to speak about the front end. But, us Audiophiles have to think even before that, and I know many of us now do.

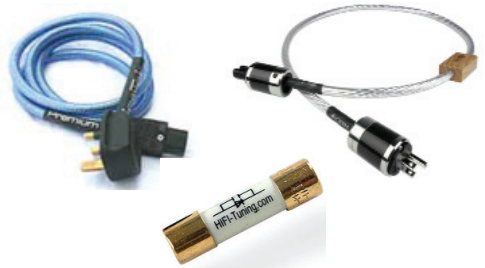
THINK POWER

Without power the “not so” and the Audiophile have something in common. No Music. So with your system you need to ensure that you have a sound power supply. A dedicated run from the consumer unit or main fuse is desirable. Ensure the system is well earthed.



POWER CORDS

The minimum consideration is a good power cord and preferably one with quality terminations. Power cords have two main options with some manufacturers going for heaving shielding to mitigate RF or others that are designed for fast propagation



POWER CONDITIONERS

A must is a Power Conditioner. If your system sounds better in the dead of night than the day, and most do, consider a power conditioner. The much acclaimed aR8 power conditioner from Audience above, offers eight outputs, ideal for power management to each component in the system. A four way model is also available called the aR4

FUSES

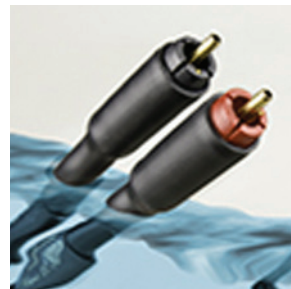
Do not forget to replace your fuse which usually is a tin link. Use a tuning fuse to upgrade the signal path and see the difference this upgrade makes.

MAINS PURIFIERS

Quantum Mains purifiers are highly recommended and the relatively low investment will benefit all components in a system. Empirical proof is now being made available to show what the improvements that the Audiophile can hear can be quantified when Quantum mains purifiers are used.

POWER REGENERATORS

need to be selected with care so seek advice but in general these are designed for source components



DIGITAL CABLES

Can be the most important link in your system. Get this cable right and everything down the line stands a chance. In the Hi-fi sense there are two main considerations. They are the SPDIF and AESEBU methods. I will avoid the server based systems but the principle remain the same.

SPDIF

cables are mainly configured in RCA or a BNC termination. They will deliver the ones and zeros to a suitable DAC. They will dutifully transport your surround sound from a DVD to a processor but in Hi-fi it's the CD transport to the DAC. A true 75 ohm cable with wide bandwidth is a must. These cables are essential for systems with external cocking.



AESEBU



AESEBU digital can offer, depending on the quality of the linked components, a higher performance than the SPDIF cables. These cables will also work between the CD transport and the DAC.

They must be true 110 ohm cables and will have the XLR male and female terminations. Some systems have dual AESEBU capability offering higher sampling rates. In this case two cables are required.

If the AESEBU option is not available use the SPDIF 75 ohm cable instead

FIBRE OPTIC

I should mention that Fibre optic is available on most equipment these days but given any of the AESEBU or SPDIF options, the fibre optic route should be the last choice. Very popular for game boxes as they are the more affordable option.

The best digital cable does not have to be of the same brand used elsewhere in the analogue side of the loom and like a good power supply it is the heart of a great digital front end audio system.



C1.0



Product
of the year
2008



ayra
by Raidho hi-fi+

C2.0

On
Demonstration
at High End Cable

*Superb trade in
facilities*



C3.0



www.highendcable.co.uk

STAX



**Best
earspeakers
in the world**

4040 II



OMEGA REFERENCE

**On
Demonstration
at High End Cable
Call
01775 761880**



3050 II



TONE-ARM CABLES

I apologise for those who felt I should discuss vinyl before CD but I prefer the digital route but I welcome the renaissance of the LP. It is so important to get the feed to the preamp or phono stage right.

Make sure you have a good earth and a good phono/tone-arm cable and use the flying lead to the amp chassis. There are many types of tone-arm cables with one of the most popular having a DIN pin to 2RCA and the flying earth lead. XLR at the amp end is generally available and on some turntables all they require is an RCA to RCA cable pair.

This is the beginning of your cable loom. It is invariably a very good idea to stay with the same designer throughout.

Most of the time this means staying with the same brand. Now although it is not essential to do this, if you are not sure stay with the manufacturer as much of their designs are based on the use of similar technology and listening with their other cables in a complete system.

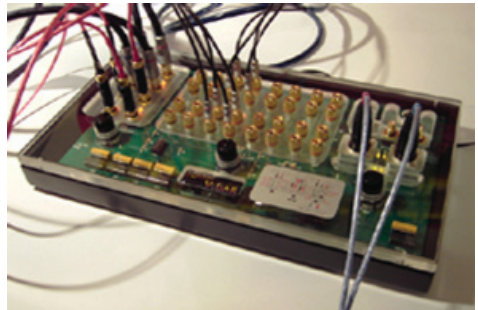


Consider having the tonearm rewired with a high quality cable and there are specialist companies who will provide the service.

As tone-arm cables deal with very low duties it is advised to have them burned in or use a proprietary cable burner to help them get to optimum levels of performance.



BURN IN



SPEAKER CABLES

There are a number of ways to hook up your speakers. Most standard forms of amplification offer two connections/terminals per channel, a plus and a negative (red & black).

SHOTGUN 2 TO 2

The majority of speakers also have the two terminals to connect to which is known as shotgun 2 to 2.



BI-AMPING



Bi-amping is where each pair of speaker terminals is fed by a designated amplifier with the factory links removed. Same goes for Tri-amping. Very few amplifiers offer this facility, so the 2 to 2 shotgun or the 2 to 4 bi-amping routes are the most popular adopted. The much admired B&W Nautilus speaker above prefers 4 amps per channel, then again this is a seriously good speaker which when designed was well ahead of its time.

TERMINATIONS

Speaker terminations sometimes called binding posts are designed to secure the speaker cable to the speaker or amplifier. 4mm OD banana push in type are the most popular followed by spades. Many systems offer both. BFA /Camcon is used with some where a protected tube slips over the terminals. Z plugs will connect to most banana and BFA arrangements

BI-WIRING 2 TO 4

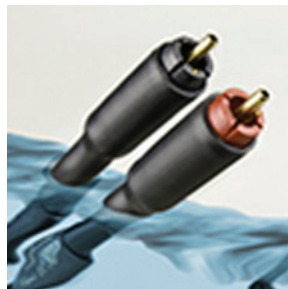
There are a number of speaker designers who offer two or more pairs of terminals which allow bi-wiring or tri-wiring. These designs will tend to supply factory links so a standard 2 to 2 shotgun arrangement can be used.

Some offer a 2 to 4 arrangement. Two at the amp and four at the speaker. With this arrangement the factory link should be removed.

The benefits of this system is best decided by the user, but bearing in mind the cost can double using this method the buyer should consider spending the same on a higher quality cable in a 2 to 2 shotgun arrangement to get the best possible signal to the speakers. The factory links can be replaced with jumpers made from the same speaker cable to complete the symmetry.



Tri-wiring is the 2 to 6 arrangement but with speakers offering this facility Bi-amping many be the route to follow.



INTERCONNECTS

Like the Digital cable this is a very important link.

Connects the phono stage to the Amp. The CD player to the Amp, in fact any analogue feed to the Amp. Considering most people may have spent a considerable sum on their favourite source piece of kit this link can ensure the designed components can perform without interference. In reality all cables are resistance but a good design overcomes these problems.

Design is taken very seriously by the established cable design companies with attention to the cables ability to become part of the overall system. The better the design the better the cable and although many are made of the same fundamental materials the knowledgeable designer offers ways of enhancing a system using the purity of the metals quality of the dielectric. There is no doubt bad cables sound bad and good cables make inferior components sound poor.

Sometimes the cable and the system and the user just do not get on for any number of reasons but spend as much as you can on the interconnect and you will be rewarded.

How much should I spend? That is up to you but an Nordost ODIN loom will make a mid priced system sound better. Cables are no substitute for good component but factor in cable costs when you are intending to spend a lot on a new piece of your Hi-fi jigsaw.

RCA

Terminations also known as phono plugs or cinch are the most popular. Almost every component has them. Easy to install and simple to clean are part of every makers cable range.



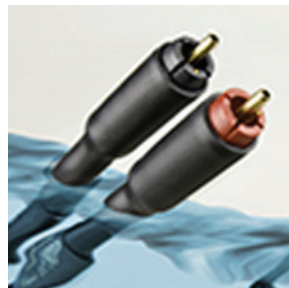
BNC

connections tend to be used on interconnects associated with digital systems with 75 ohm digital and clocking cables and also Ariel feeds like a Sky Box. Not usually used elsewhere but can be.



XLR

balanced cables are usually associated with the higher end Hi-fi. They offer a more solid termination, have female to male plugs so directionality cannot be confused. They offer an increase in gain by design and although readily available the RCA is usually the selected route as resale is easier and most components accommodate them.



ISOLATION

Your Hi-fi will benefit from a good quality stand or rack. The elimination of vibration and the dissipation of unwanted resonance will allow the music to come through.

Equipment and speaker stands made to order by Townshend work on a Max's isolation process offer considerable sound upgrades. Even simple spikes offer reduce contact with the room.



More sophisticated designs use resonance control using bearings of varying materials like the Nordost Quasar Points.

In churches around the World where they tune their space with pots filled with all sorts you can tune your room with acoustic tuning devises can be effective in dull as well as over bright listening rooms

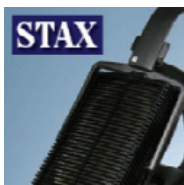
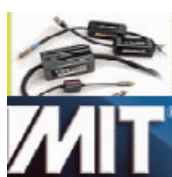
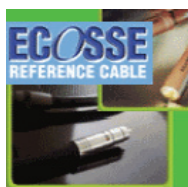
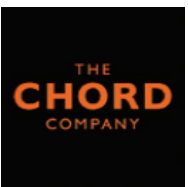
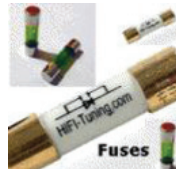


KEEP IT CLEAN



Clean your terminals at regular intervals and also your CDs and DVDs. Good house keeping keeps the system swinging.

High End Cable offer the most cost effective way to upgrade your High End Hi-fi or AV system



Upto
25% OFF
when you trade in
your old cable



Please visit
www.highendcable.co.uk

or call Dave
on 01775 761880
to discuss ways to
improve your system



Available from High End Cable



adeptResponse aR8
High Resolution Power Conditioner

adeptResponse aR 4
High Resolution Power Conditioner



Au24e .elegant, coherent, musical
High Resolution Cables

