

like smoothness. Even some softness in the bass and a bit of forwardness in the treble don't diminish one of the most transparent cables NG has heard. Unique splitter rings allows easy change-out of terminations or bi-wire upgrades. Reviewed by NG, Issue 164



Furutech Reference III and Evolution Interconnect and Cables

Reference III Interconnect:
\$1320/1.2m (XLR),
\$1155/1.2m (RCA)

Reference III Speaker:
\$1573/3m

Reference III Power: \$1210
Evolution Interconnect:
\$740/1.2m (XLR), \$650/1.2m (RCA)

Evolution Speaker: \$770/3m

furutech.com

Furutech uses cryogenically treated, ultra-high-purity, OCC (Ohno Continuous Casting) single-crystal copper conductors in both its mid-priced Evolution and premium-priced Reference III audio cables. The top models offer better connectors, superior dielectric materials, and passive EMI-absorption filters made from GC-303 (and EMI-absorbent material developed by 3M Company). Furutech's cables have great transparency and purity, plus an uncanny ability to block out noise, hash, and grunge. Reviewed by CM, Issue 173

Harmonic Technology Magic Link Two Interconnect
\$820/1m (RCA), \$900/1m (XLR)

harmonictech.com

With improved clarity and articulation over Harmonic Tech's more affordable Pro Silway line, the Magic Link Two consistently yields smooth,

extended highs, a delightfully full and natural midrange, and solid bass. You may find other pricier interconnects that excel in one specific area or another, but when it comes to overall system synergy, this is one cable you'll be "wearing" like a favorite pair of shoes. SK

Harmonic Technology Magic Reference II SE Power Cord
\$1499

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harmonictech.com

Designed for use primarily with front-end components, the Reference II SE delivers tremendous clarity, smoothness, and definition across the entire frequency spectrum, and does so without constricting dynamics or softening the treble. Built-in noise filter acts as an AC conditioner to remove line noise. SK

Harmonic Technology Pro-11 + Speaker Cable
\$575/8'

harmonictech.com

The TechPro-11+ is sensual, romantic, and highly present with vocals, with full rich body and a slight forwardness. There's a distinct sweetness in the upper octaves that, once experienced, makes it tough to live without. Soundstage reproduction is also a strong suit, as the full weight and breadth of an orchestra seem to laterally expand with this wire. Reviewed by NG, Issue 146

Kimber Kable Hero Interconnect/BTC Speaker Cable

Interconnect: \$200/1m
Speaker: \$400/8'

kimberkable.com

Yielding only a tiny bit in sheer control, ultimate top-end transparency, and inner detailing to PS's reference Kimber Select KS-1021, Hero's bass lives up to its name, prodigious in amplitude and definition (rather better even than its pricier brother). This interconnect is either dead neutral or tilts a notch to the yang, with

dynamics at once powerful yet finely resolved in an essentially grain-free presentation. Tilting a tad toward the yin, the 8TC has that elusive ability to remain musical no matter what is happening fore or aft, ideally mediating detail, liveliness, tonal neutrality, and dynamic contrasts within a very realistic, holographic soundstage. Hero reviewed by PS, Issue 138; 8TC reviewed by PS, Issue 146

MIT AVt 1 Speaker Cable
\$599/8'

mitcables.com

Perhaps canted ever so slightly toward the yang, the MIT AVt 1 counts power and definition among its many virtues. Perhaps there is ever so slightly less bloom than with other cables, but the AVt 1 nevertheless suggests great openness, with a remarkable ability to project musical events into the room and an impression of snap and bite that in the best sense of those words is irresistible. Reviewed by PS, Issue 146

MIT Oracle MA Speaker Cable
\$24,900/8'

mitcables.com

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Over the past four years, no cable has dethroned MIT's Oracle V2 in RH's system—until MIT's new MA (Maximum Articulation) showed up. Although priced the same as the discontinued Oracle V2, the new MA is vastly improved, with far greater resolution, greater separation of individual instrumental lines, more space and depth, and a shocking increase in bottom-end depth, power, and articulation. Reviewed by RH, Issue 190

MIT Oracle MA-X Interconnect
\$7995/1m

mitcables.com

Like MIT's Oracle MA speaker cable, the companion Oracle MA-X interconnect fully reveals the textural warmth, body, and saturation of tone colors one hears from live instruments.

The soundstaging is equally impressive, delivering a huge and transparent rendering with precise placement of images. Small knobs on the termination boxes allow you to fine-tune the sound to your system. Reviewed by RH, Issue 190

Nordost Baldur Interconnect and Speaker Cable

Interconnect: \$499/1m
Speaker: \$1499/3m

nordost.com

Baldur brings much of the balance and harmonic integrity of state-of-the-art Valhalla to prices even "normal" audiophiles (as opposed to normal people) can afford. It has a buttery way with transients and low-level details. Although never edgy, there is a whitish zone in the lower treble. Perhaps not as weighty and focused as some, but with an overall balance and musicality that are addictive. Reviewed by NG, Issue 164

Nordost Blue Heaven Interconnect and Speaker Cable

Interconnect: \$229/1m
Speaker: \$610/8'

nordost.com

Similar in personality, the Blue Heaven interconnects and cables excel at low-level detail, upper-octave smoothness, and transient speed. Also expect to hear exceptional inner detail and nuance emerge from the velvety black and silent background. Note that it may be a bit on the cool clinical side for some treble-happy systems, but remains ideal for neutral and darker ones. Reviewed by NG, Issue 138

PNF Audio Icon Interconnect and Symphony Speaker Cable
Icon: \$190/1m
Symphony: \$400/10'

pnfaudio.com

PNF produces one of the finest sets of reasonably priced cables we have heard. We say "sets" here, because the Icon and Symphony offer complementary