

Rega Couple Interconnect

\$150/1-meter pair

rega.co.uk

The Couples offer plenty of upper midrange/treble detail, with fine resolution of textures, yet without exaggerated transients or edginess. Their bass is tight and punchy, and they are wonderfully neutral throughout the midrange. While they don't offer the almost "luminous" midrange quality you'll hear in some very expensive cables, their essential neutrality makes a fine substitute for a "pennies-on-the-dollar" price.

Reviewed by CIM, AVguide.com, 10/2003

Richard Gray's Power Company High Tension Wire Power Cord

\$450 and up

richardgrayspowercompany.com

Exotic power cords are something of a conundrum—they make an immediate and obvious change in sound quality, but seldom are the changes unequivocally for the better. RGPC's High Tension Wires are tonally neutral and, unlike many exotic power cords, they don't cause more problems than they solve. The HTWs do the things you want a power cord to do—the background is blacker, more real detail is revealed, and dynamics are extended—without getting in the way of anything your system does right.

SB

Shunyata Python Power Cord

\$995

shunyata.com

As RH put it in his review, "the idea that a power cord comes at the end of a very long power-transmission system is purely one of perspective. From the amplifier's point of view the power cord is the first few feet of the power-deliver system." With the Python, expect greatly improved transparency, soundstaging, tighter focus, and air, "fostering a greater impression of hearing an actual instrument in an acoustic space."

Reviewed by RH, Issue 164

Siltech Paris MXT Interconnect

\$199/one-meter pair

siltechcables.com

The only tonal anomaly of this superb interconnect is a slightly recessed midrange—very slight—that throws the tonal balance about three degrees to the yin, albeit in no way that's unmusical. Otherwise, it has a smooth, tube-like sound that's not the least sibilant, while the low-end is warm and solid. Like many components that have a slight midrange trough, the entire presentation is somewhat set back, with a rather conspicuous rendering of depth. The Paris reproduces the gestalt of a musical event with stunning transparency, detail, and cohesion—everything in its proper place.

Reviewed by PS, Issue 138

Siltech New York MXT Speaker Cable

\$491/2.5-meter pair

siltechcables.com

Luxurious as an Italian loafer, the Siltech New York MXT is sensibly weighted toward the midrange and basically neutral in balance, with a slightly rounded treble. Virtually grain-free and one of the most harmonically palpable and realistic in its price range, it also offers excellent low-level resolution. Though soundstage dimensionality could be improved, no serious faults trip this up.

Reviewed by NG, Issue 146

Paul Speltz "Anti-Cable" Speaker Cable

\$80 (8-foot pair w/spades)

anticables.com

A godsend to those who want good sound but don't want to spend big bucks. SK was blown away by their neutrality and lack of coloration, high frequencies that are open and clear with no tizziness, a midrange of exceptional clarity, transparency and detail, and bass that's extended, with remarkable articulation.

Reviewed by SK, Issue 162

Synergistic Research Subwoofer Cable

\$1200

synergisticresearch.com

Pricy but potent, these cables are specifically for subwoofers and in Neutrik connectors. They yield more detail and expanded

Reviewed by

Synergistic Research Interconnect

\$199/one-meter pair

synergisticresearch.com

Balanced with fine

cable must be plugged into a power supply that, in turn, generates a very small amount of current to bias the dielectric. If this sounds complicated, it is a bit, but the results are impressive: dead quiet backgrounds and higher amplitude signals. The Absolute Reference X2 sounds a bit like Nordost Valhalla with denser tone color, fuller body, and higher output. A beguiling alternative for those who like the sound of Nordost cable but long for a bit more "there" there.

JV

TARA Labs RSC Air 1 and Air 1 Series 2 Interconnect and Speaker Cable

Interconnect: \$995/one meter; Speaker: \$2350/ten-foot pair

taralabs.com

Everything about these cables says big—dynamics, extension, and volume. It's also one of the mellow cables I've heard with a darker character, and a deeply polished and resonant soundstage and orchestral presentation that should appeal to many. They are promoted and stable. Edge level.

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