



the absolute sound[®] 2011 High-End Audio Buyer's Guide

YOUR ULTIMATE AUDIO RESOURCE!

200+

REVIEWS OF THE BEST

SPEAKERS, AMPLIFIERS, DISC PLAYERS, MUSIC SERVERS, TURNTABLES, AND MORE!

The 30 Greatest Bargains in High-End Audio

MIT Oracle Interconnect

\$7995/1m
Like MIT's Ora...
speaker cable,
Oracle MA-X...
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Purist Audio Design Dominus Interconnect and Speaker Cable

Interconnect: \$5250/1m
Speaker: \$10,980/1.5m

The all-silver Dominus is very detailed, very dynamic, very rich. Less open than Nordost Valhalla and darker in balance, it is also quieter, and because of its fluid-damped construction, virtually immune to floorborne and airborne vibration.
puristaudiodesign.com

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Rega Couple Interconnect

\$195/1m
The Couple offers plenty of upper midrange/treble detail, with fine resolution of textures, yet without exaggerated transients or edginess. Its bass is tight and punchy, and it is wonderfully neutral throughout the midrange. While it doesn't offer the almost "luminous" midrange quality you'll hear in some very expensive cables, its essential neutrality makes a fine substitute for a "pennies-on-the-dollar" price.
soundorg.com (AVguide.com, 10/2003)

Shunyata Python Alpha Helix CX Power Cord

\$1195
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."
shunyata.com (164)

Paul Speltz "Anti-Cable" Speaker Cable

\$80/8'
A godsend to those who want good sound but don't want to spend big bucks. SK was blown away by its neutrality and lack of coloration, high frequencies that were open and clear with no tizziness, a midrange of exceptional clarity, transparency and detail, and bass that was extended, with remarkable articulation.
anticables.com (162)

Shunyata Venom3

\$95/1m
An affordable power cord that provides a quantum leap over the standard, no-name variety. These cords—flexible and UL approved—will add transient pop, stabilize images, open the soundstage, and peel away the soft veiling that inhibits transparency and resolution. But first you'll need to prepare yourself to spend a lot less dough than you thought.
shunyata.com (review forthcoming)

