Merlin Cables

Merlin audio cables combine the latest cutting-edge cable technology with class-leading sonic abilities along with excellent aesthetic appeal. In today’s world a fantastic performance is not the only criteria for purchasing a product - the design has to offer superior aesthetics and convenience whilst in the case of an audio cable also be discreet and unobtrusive in the domestic environment.

NAS Noise Absorbing System technology is key to the sonic clarity and purity obtained by our cables. This non-intrusive absorption technique is designed to remove damaging RF (radio frequency) and EM (electro-magnetic) interference.

make the connection
Technology Overview

Merlin Audio Cables combine the latest cutting-edge cable technology with class-leading sonic abilities along with excellent aesthetic appeal. In today's world a fantastic performance is not the only criteria for purchasing a product - the design has to offer superior aesthetics and convenience whilst in the case of an audio cable also be discreet and unobtrusive in the domestic environment.

IRC Merlin Audio Cables have been designed to excel in both of these areas. For those technically minded, all Merlin Audio Cables use 6N laboratory-spec copper conductors, individually insulated using our Inert Resin Coating (IRC) to minimise the skin-effect problem that is normally associated with multi-strand cables. Traditional multistrand cables often exhibit excellent frequency extension but are normally impaired by a veiled mid-band and a slightly undefined bass. Conversely solidcore cables tend to present a more open sound but suffer from a tailored frequency range.

HCT By using Hybrid Core Technology (HCT) the benefits of both multi-strand and solid-core cables are combined and their drawbacks effectively minimised. Construction is of either 6 or 12 individual cores of copper arranged in a spaced flat ribbon-style configuration. Unlike other cable products, the advanced manufacturing techniques used enable the copper cores to be coated in a non-reactive resin (IRC) as soon as they are drawn, so dramatically reducing the likelihood of oxidisation of the conductor. In conventional manufacturing of audio cables the dielectric will cause a chemical reaction with the conductor as soon as it is applied and thus changes the characteristics of the cable, audible by an altered sonic signature and colouration. Many companies over the years have tried to overcome the problems of dielectric interference by using very expensive techniques and so imparting exorbitant prices. The unique coating and construction techniques used in Merlin Audio Cables virtually eliminate the problem of dielectric interference, thus negating the requirement of expensive dielectric materials. All Merlin Audio Cables are at least double-insulated, consisting of the airtight Inert Resin Coating (IRC) and a low temperature laminate jacket. The superior cables in the range benefit from an additional outer sleeved braiding.

NAS Most Merlin Audio Cables use the proprietary NAS Noise Absorbing System. This non-intrusive absorption technique is designed to remove damaging RF (radio frequency) and EM (electro-magnetic) interference. NAS enables the components in a hi-fi system to operate correctly without suffering from the detrimental effect of harmful harmonic noise. Leaked emissions from the equipment itself and those picked up by the cable represent the focus of the proprietary system. Whilst conventional audio cables use screening to prevent RF and EM interference, an audio cable can still transmit RF and EM picked up internally from equipment - using a screened cable to combat these problems is not effective. The philosophy of Merlin Cables is to remove the problems before it enters the hi-fi system. The NAS is designed to work at frequencies of 20MHz and above, with a bandwidth greater than 30GHz. As already explained, all cables can have the ability to act as miniature antennas - they transform noise voltages and noise currents into radiated EMI, thereby having a damaging effect on the sound quality of your system. By drastically reducing these levels sound quality becomes more detailed and defined, with higher frequencies becoming cleaner and sweeter coupled to a more agile and tuneful bass performance. The improvement in the high-frequencies enables the key mid-range to open considerably and become more liquid and focussed.

All these technologies are the foundations for the sonic success of Merlin Interconnects and Merlin Speaker Cables. Interconnect cables are available as standard with high-quality low-mass RCA phono plugs. Professional-grade Neutrik™ XLR connectors are available for true balanced operation on two cables. Speaker cables are normally terminated in low-mass dual-function 4mm/6.3mm plugs for ease of use. Spacers are available as an alternative. The 12-core speaker cable is available in bi-wire or bi-amp format. For the finishing touch to a hi-fi system, specify Merlin Mains Cables and Merlin Audio Cables, both with proprietary NAS, to experience a performance as it is meant - clean and pure.

make the connection
Audio Cables

Bach analogue interconnect ★★★★★
Our entry level cable offering impressive levels of detail and refinement. Incorporating Hybrid Core Technology (HCT) which has all the benefits of multi-strand and solid core cables without the inherent drawbacks. High quality Gold Plated RCA plugs (picture shown with nickel plugs).

Chopin analogue interconnect ★★★★★
The first cable in the range to employ our proprietary Noise Absorbing System (NAS) as well as utilizing HCT. NAS is designed to combat the detrimental effects of RF and EMF interference, resulting in superior detail and sound staging whilst removing the hard edge from music (2nd harmonic distortion). 5-star review in What Hi-Fi? Magazine

Elgar analogue interconnect
The Elgar uses improved versions of our non-intrusive filtering system (NAS) to remove even more harmful RF and EM interference resulting in an amazing depth of sound stage and improved detail levels with less background noise

Verdi analogue interconnect ★★★★★
The first in the range to use a double-helical spiral construction. When combined with our NAS technology, this offers superior levels of RF and EM suppression and rejection. These cables are fitted with an improved version of our RCA plugs, that have been cryogenically treated to remove the stresses caused by machining and manufacturing of the metal.

What Hi-Fi? 5 star review: "The best sub £200 cable on the market."

make the connection
Audio Cables cont.

Vivaldi analogue interconnect
Offering double the filtering level of the Verdi, opposing double helical spiral construction, cryo-plugs and of course, the same excellent proprietary technology used throughout the range; IRC (Inert Resin Coating), HCT (Hybrid Core Technology) and NAS (Noise Absorbing System). This cable offers stunning levels of refinement and realism.

Scorpion analogue interconnect
The Scorpion interconnect features double NAS technology. The whole cable is completely cryogenically treated after being assembled to remove the stress from the crystalline structure of the metal and solder joints. This cable offers a massive sense of scale to the performance with breath-taking levels of detail and a deep, clean bass response.

Dragon analogue interconnect
The Dragon interconnect range is our finest offering and represents the peak of our cable technology knowledge. The improvements across the whole audio spectrum can be exemplified by an enhancement in clarity and projection of the mid-band, giving greater agility in associated bass performance.
Our top of the range cable incorporating IRC, NAS, HCT and cryogenically treated plugs. Platted, twin double-helical spiral construction. The entire cable is double cryogenically treated. WBT phono plugs.

Haydn 75 ohm digital interconnect
The Haydn has been designed to full serial broadcast specifications in order to create one of the truest 75 ohm cables available on the market today. With electrical propagation of 85% the Haydn effectively surpasses all current standards and achieves the highest levels of signal integrity to produce one of the finest-sounding digital interconnects available, eminently suitable for the highest-resolution audio standards.

make the connection
Speaker Cable

Loudspeaker cable which take advantage of our non-intrusive Noise Absorption Technology (NAS). A significant upgrade to any system, our interconnects exhibit clarity and purity of sound enabling true three dimensionality displaying a remarkable sense of height and depth whilst full-band sonic performance shows remarkably satisfying cohesion and exceptional musicality.

All cables are terminated as standard with low mass BFA connectors. Prepackaged lengths of 3, 5, 7 and 10 metre lengths are available. Custom lengths are also available.

Merlin's proprietary non-intrusive Noise Absorption Technology (NAS) system vastly minimises the effects of both transmitted and radiated radio-frequency and electro-magnetic interference. The deployment of NAS technology is especially critical to minimise and absorb the performance-degrading effects of unwanted harmonics and in phase high-frequency currents which induce a detrimental net magnetic field around the cable.

C4 speaker cable ★★★★★
Six core, flat ribbon style cable. Discrete and subtle in appearance, but offering amazing levels of detail and open presentation. What Hi-Fi? 4 star review.

C6 speaker cable ★★★★★
IRC (Inert Resin Coating) HCT (Hybrid Core Technology), six core, flat ribbon style cable. Discrete and subtle in appearance, but offering amazing levels of detail with a fluid and open presentation. What Hi-Fi? 5 star review.

C12 speaker cable ★★★★★
C12 cable features IRC (Inert resin coating), HCT (Hybrid Core Technology), twelve core, flat ribbon style cable. Discrete and subtle in appearance, but offering amazing levels of detail with a fluid and open presentation. Offering lower resistance and superior current carrying capacity than C6. A supremely smooth and sophisticated sounding cable. What Hi-Fi 5 star review: “Best in class.”

Scorpion speaker cable
Incorporating IRC (Inert Resin Coating), and HCT (Hybrid Core Technology), the Scorpion features opposing double helical spiral construction and is entirely cryogenically treated to remove stresses in the metal caused by machining and manufacturing. If purchased factory-terminated, incorporates our proprietary NAS technology.

make the connection
Mains Products

Mains cables and blocks that actually combat background noise resulting in a dramatic reduction in high-frequency distortion and listener-fatigue, most notably at higher sound pressure levels. The improvements across the whole audio spectrum can be exemplified by an enhancement in clarity and projection of the mid-band, giving greater agility in associated bass performance.

All mains leads are terminated as standard with IEC plugs - figure-of-8 is to special order. Custom lengths available.

Merlin Cables Mains Leads are made from multi-strand laboratory-spec high-purity copper with carefully selected dielectric materials chosen for their sonic and electrical performance and employ our advanced absorption techniques.

Merlin Cables offer four variants of mains leads and two mains extension blocks. All mains products offer significant improvements in sound quality, with the top of the range obviously giving the greatest improvement in resolution and musicality. To quote WHAT Hi-Fi? magazine in its 5-star review of the Black Widow in the September 02 issue, ‘...the cable improved everything from basic Arcam to our reference Krell setup, and therefore we have no choice but to award five stars...’ Indeed Merlin Black Widow won the Product of the Year Best Buy Award for Mains Product at the prestigious 2002 What Hi-Fi? Industry Awards.

Merlin Cables use non-intrusive absorption techniques designed to remove damaging RF (radio frequency) and EM (electro-magnetic) interference. These techniques enable the components in a hi-fi system to operate correctly without suffering from the detrimental effect of harmful harmonic noise. Leaked emissions from the equipment itself and those picked up by the cable represent the focus of the proprietary system. Despite the best efforts of equipment manufacturers to deal with the problem of RF and EM interference, a mains cable can still transmit RF picked up internally from equipment or from household mains supply - using a screened cable to combat these problems is not effective. The philosophy of Merlin Cables is to remove the problems before it enters the hi-fi system.

As already explained, all cables can have the ability to act as miniature antennas - they transform noise voltages and noise currents into radiated EMI, thereby having a damaging effect on the sound quality of your system. By drastically reducing these levels, sound quality becomes more detailed and defined, with higher frequencies becoming clearer and sweeter coupled to a more agile and tuneful bass performance. The improvement in the high-frequencies enables the key mid-range to open considerably and become more liquid and focused. In an audio-visual system, improvements will be represented most notably by a considerably clearer picture free of the distracting noise speckling found in un-treated systems.

All mains leads are terminated as standard with IEC plugs - figure-of-8 is to special order. Custom lengths available. Available with UK, US, Japanese, EURO and Australian mains plugs.

make the connection
Mains Products cont.

Tarantula mains cable ★★★★★
1.5m. Constructed using 1mm² high purity copper conductors with superior quality re-wireable IEC plugs with gold plated pins and incorporating non-intrusive NAS technology to remove problem RF and EM interference from the mains supply.

Black Widow mains cable ★★★★★
Makes improvements through the use of two NAS - one at each end to remove the interference as close to source as possible and then to more effectively remove the interference radiated by the cable itself. The Black Widow employs 1.5mm² copper conductors.

Funnelweb mains cable
Building on the technology pioneered on the award-winning Black Widow Mains Cable the Funnelweb employs copper conductors of a larger cross-sectional area (2x 1.5mm² conductors) for higher current carrying capacity. The Funnelweb features a helical spiral construction consisting of six 1.5mm² conductors, spiraled around a polymer former. Utilising a more advanced form of Merlin's proprietary Noise Absorption System (NAS), the new Funnelweb exhibits vastly improved spatial performance over the already impressive Black Widow, notably in the perception of depth and height within the sound stage.

The Merlin Funnelweb is terminated with a high quality gold-plated mains plug (even the fuse is gold plated) and a 10A IEC plug with gold plated copper pins as standard. Gold-plated 16A IEC termination is available at extra cost for compatibility with the Merlin Scorpion Mains Block as well as other specialist audio equipment. Standard cable length is 1.5m.
Mains Products cont.

Scorpion mains cable
Utilises Merlin's IRC (Inert Resin Coating) technology in its construction, drastically minimising skin effect problems of multi-strand cables. The cable is in a platted configuration encased in a protective braid and incorporates the most advanced NAS technology. The Scorpion benefits from the use of a heavy-duty MK gold-plated mains plug for robustness and improved contact. The IEC fitted as standard features gold plated.

Dragon mains cable
Mains cables and blocks that actually combat background noise resulting in a dramatic reduction in high-frequency distortion and listener-fatigue, most notably at higher sound pressure levels. The improvements across the whole audio spectrum can be exemplified by an enhancement in clarity and projection of the mid-band, giving greater agility in associated bass performance.

Black Widow mains block (4-way) ★★★★★
Utilises a version of our award-winning Black Widow mains lead (1.25mm² conductors) with the convenience of a high-quality four-way mains distribution board. Incorporating additional NAS technology within the board itself, the block has received a stunning 5-star review in What Hi-Fi? Magazine.

Scorpion Mains Block (4-way)
Designed from the ground-up to offer ultra-high performance at sensible cost. A four-way distribution block, star-wired on all contacts employing integral multiple-NAS technology and using Crabtree sockets. Incorporates a binding post for an external earthing spike. Uses high-current 16A IEC connection for use with any of the Merlin Cables Mains Leads.
Contact Details

For any questions about Merlin Cables products, or for help and advice in choosing Merlin Cables for use in your system, please contact:

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