

Great Budget Cable!

The Audio Art SC-5 Speaker Cables

If you recall last year, we gave the Audio Art interconnects one of our exceptional value awards for 2007. For around a hundred bucks, they make a great pair of interconnects and for \$115, (\$130 with banana plugs and double for bi wired) they make an equally good pair of speaker cables.

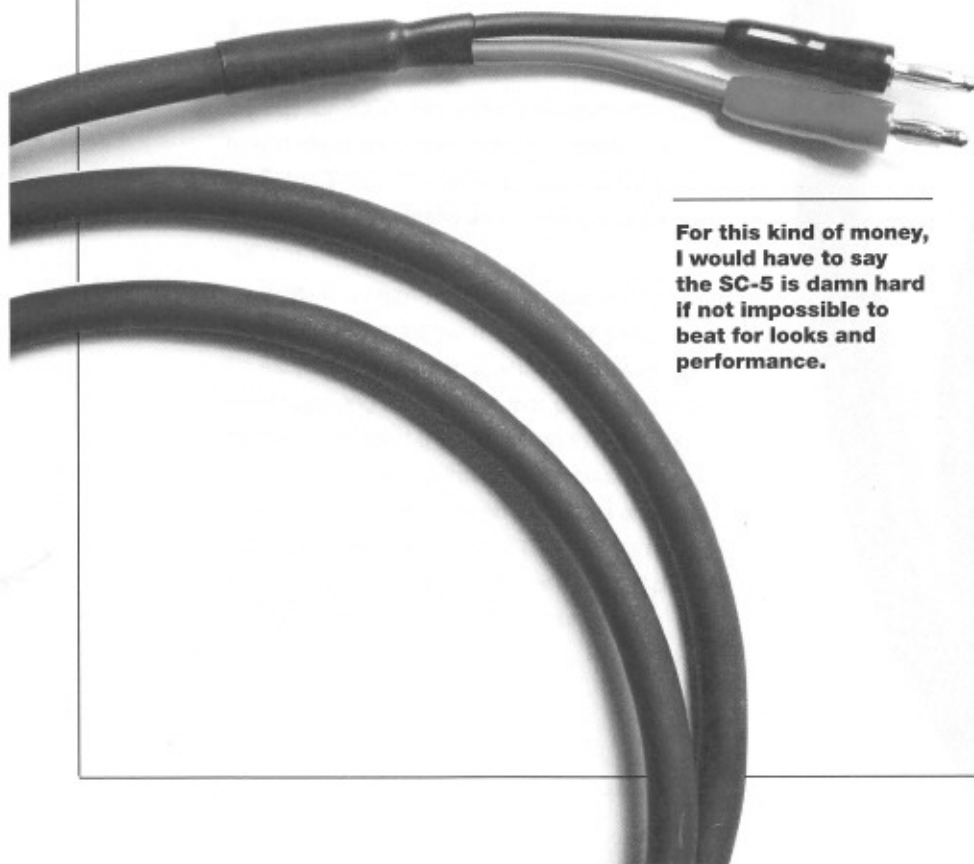
While it is often very fashionable in this industry to talk about the mega expensive cables, it's easy to lose sight that what we have grown used to paying for an eight foot pair of speaker cables would feed a family of ten for a year in Bali. Without getting into a major discussion about the struggle between the haves and the have nots, the bottom line is that there are a lot of people out there that just need a great pair of speaker cables for around 100 bucks.



The Audio Art SC-5s Deliver This In Buckets!

I know there are a lot of people that like to go the DIY route and while I have nothing against that (because I'm known to pick up a soldering iron on occasion and a torque wrench for that matter...) sometimes you just don't have the time or ambition to screw around with it! At this price, why bother? Spend that time record shopping instead, I say!

The SC-5 uses a pair of 14 gauge silver coated OFC copper. Unlike a few cables that I have heard with some silver added to the mix that have had a touch of brightness, I found these to be very neutral. They come in very basic packaging (no wooden boxes here) and have a nice basic dark blue insulation with bananas or spade lugs.



For this kind of money, I would have to say the SC-5 is damn hard if not impossible to beat for looks and performance.

A quick visual inspection reveals that these look very nicely made for this price. It's one thing to make your own pair of speaker cables for this kind of money, it's another to make em look this good!

Great All Around Performance

I tried the SC-5s in a number of different systems, with quite a few amplifiers in the \$1000-4000 range and was very impressed. They are currently in my living room system with the Valve Audio Predator and the B&W 805S speakers doing just fine, thank you very much! I made it a point to use the SC-5s with a couple of speakers that tend to be a little bit forward and bright to see if they would tone them down at all. (They didn't) I also used them with a couple of speakers that I knew were a bit recessed and closed in to see if the SC-5s would give them a bump. (Again, no dice.)

I also made it a point to listen to plenty of music to see how they did across the spectrum. Bass response with the 805s was very good. These speakers need a fair amount of current drive, so the wrong cable will rob them of that last bit of punch. Same thing with the high end; a lousy cable will really muck up the imaging and the SC-5s passed both tests with flying colors.

So, my conclusion is that these are a very neutral cable for \$115 a pair. Yes, if I put them in with the really spendy stuff, there is a bit of grain compared to the cables in the four figure category as well as a slight loss of fine detail in comparison. But for this kind of money, I would have to say the SC-5 is damn hard if not impossible to beat for looks and performance.

Put that soldering iron away and give Rob a call at Audio Art. You will be glad you did! ●