

SLINKYLINKS SPEAKER CABLE RRP INC GST \$525 (3M PAIR)
SLINKYLINKS INTERCONNECTS (RCA) RRP INC GST \$400 (1M PAIR)

Slinkylinks employs what it claims is a unique, three-step approach to cable manufacture.

First, pure-grade silver is used for all the conductors. In theory, at least, the superior conductivity of silver should offer advantages over traditional copper-based cables.

Secondly, Slinkylinks uses an innovative air-dielectric for conductor insulation. This solution was arrived at after the Slinkylinks team had conducted extensive research into cable insulation. Basic physics dictates that when wire comes into contact with any material, a dielectric loss occurs. This means the plastic insulation surrounding the wire absorbs some of the signal, then releases it back into

the conductor out of phase. The timing of the signal is altered, adding harmonic distortion and colourations. Slinkylinks contends that “bits of data are lost and cannot be recovered, destroying the clarity of the original signal”.

So, if the plastic insulation on your cable is effectively strangling your signal, what’s the answer? Well, the ultimate dielectric material is air and knowing this, Slinkylinks designed an innovative method of insulating wire in a hollow tube. The wire does actually come into contact with the plastic in random places, but as Slinkylinks’ engineers explain, “this has minimal effect on the cable’s performance, and is not

audibly detectable”.

They found that test results were better when the wire touched randomly, rather than trying to keep the wire housed centrally in the hollow tube using Teflon spacers. Similarly, if the silver does make contact at one point, most of the conductor is still exposed to air, and the signal tends to take this path instead as there is less resistance.

Finally, Slinkylinks cables eliminate as much metal componentry as possible. Metal creates capacitance, and capacitance distortion can have a negative influence on any conducted signal. The less metal, reason the Slinkylinks boffins, the less likelihood of distortion.

VERDICT

Slinkylinks interconnects and speaker cable

Pros: Amazing value, open, clean, fast yet relaxing sound

Cons: Addictive — you’ll want more, but they lack some bass “slam”

Build	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★☆
Value	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★

Listening

What can you say about hi-fi products who seem to simply step out of the way and allow more of the music through? Such is the case with the Slinkylinks interconnects and speaker cable. They seem to have no intrinsic character, so it seems almost pointless to try and describe their “sound”. Using either the interconnects of speaker cable individually gives you a taste of what Slinkylinks can do for your system, but used throughout a system, their cumulative effect seemed all the more pronounced. It sounds daft, but I swear it’s true. Slinkylinks call this “the Slinkyzone”. It was as if a layer of background hash had been removed. Music emerged from an inky black, absolutely silent background. Previously unheard vocal inflections and subtleties hidden in the mix were revealed. I normally use a combination of Kimber and Synergistic Research interconnects and speaker cables. These are good cables and they aren’t cheap — costing around double the price of Slinkylinks. The Slinkylinks sounded better. Period. More natural. More open. More relaxing. More like music. Criticisms? At first listen, they can seem slightly lacking in the bass department. But keep listening and you’ll come to appreciate that Slinkylinks bass is all there — it’s just tighter and faster and doesn’t draw attention to itself. Just like real bass. However, if your speakers are already a little bass-light, you might want to consider other cable options that offer more obvious bottom-end welly. But if the rest of your system is up to it, Slinkylinks will deliver the goods unhindered.

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