



Local Links

David Chan puts the Kiwi-made Slinkylinks speaker cables to the test

Following the success of its interconnect, Slinkylinks has released a speaker cable. This silver speaker cable is priced at \$70/m plus terminations, which is very affordable compared with other silver speaker cables on the market such as the Kimber AG, which sells for \$350/m plus terminations.

We compared the Slinkylinks with other similarly-priced cables – Audioquest Crystal (\$50/m), Kimber Kable 4TC(\$67/m), Alpha-core Goertz M12 (\$105/m) and Straight Wire Octave (\$120/m) – in several two channel systems and four home theatre systems (in two channel mode), ranging from \$3000 to \$45,000.

The Slinkylinks was clearly in another league. When compared with other more expensive copper cables, the Slinkylinks continued to amaze. Whether it was the silver cable or the unique design which surrounds the cables with air, there was a consistent leap in performance – any differences between the copper cables became trivial by comparison.

Slinkylinks had all the dynamics and clarity of the Straight Wire Maestro

(\$400/m), the smoothness of the Goertz M12, the bass of the Monster M1.5 (discontinued) and the huge soundstage of the AFA Poseidon (\$200/m).

A better image

The Slinkylinks had superb imaging, detail, smoothness, transparency and soundstaging: clean, extended, taut bass, lush midrange and extended smooth highs. The Slinkylinks produced a well-focused holographic image that none of the other cables could match. The improvement was black and white, like chalk and cheese, like day and night. When comparing the copper cables, the difference was often like comparing black to a very dark shade of grey.

The Slinkylinks is by far the best speaker cable I have had in any of my systems. Watching DVDs, TV movies and music videos in two channel mode was often more enjoyable than Dolby Digital or DTS mode, which produced a rather flat two-dimensional, and less focused, front soundstage.

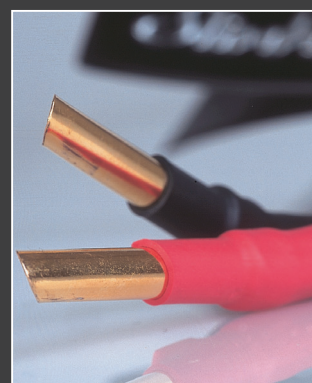
I repeated a previous comparison of the Slinkylinks interconnects with the Straight Wire Maestros, Alpha-Core Goertz sapphire and Transparent Super Musiclink

interconnects. The combination of the Slinkylinks interconnects and speaker cables produced the most three-dimensional soundstage, the smoothest midrange and top-end and the best image and focus. The Alpha-Core Goertz came a close second, and the other two interconnects sounded rather two-dimensional and lacked in detail by comparison. These differences were not particularly discernible when I used the Straight Wire Maestro speaker cables.

Spending spree

Forget the recommendation that you should spend 10 per cent of your hi-fi budget on cables. If you buy a pair of Slinkylinks cables (and interconnects) you would not have to consider cables again unless you wanted to spend some serious money.

In summary, Slinkylinks is a truly fantastic, world-class audiophile speaker cable at a commendably affordable price. It outperformed all the other speaker cables I have evaluated. I would have to seriously think twice about spending more money to get a better speaker cable. If I ever owned a more expensive system, I am confident the Slinkylinks would be up to the task. ■



Tone Verdict

Slinkylinks speaker cables
\$70 per metre

Pros
Superb imaging, detail, smoothness, transparency and soundstaging; clean, extended, taut bass; lush midrange; the list could go on ...

Banana connectors fit into Linn and Arcam speaker outputs

Cons
Why didn't Slinkylinks make this cable sooner?

Summary
A truly fantastic world-class audiophile speaker cable at a ridiculously affordable price

Tone ★★★★★