

The Audio Word

Harmonic Technology Makes It Safe For Audiophiles To “Walk To The Light!”

In my never ending quest to recreate the sound of “live” music in my listening room, I have listened to a lot of equipment, including many interconnect cables that are so expensive that I have refused to tell even my audiophile friends their costs.

One method I have discovered of mitigating these costs is the “previously-owned” market. Some cables are available from dealers as “demos” and “trade-ins”. Others are available directly when audiophiles “upgrade” their cables and want to “move” their “old” cables thereby defraying the cost of new cables raved over by the audiophile community. In September of 2001, I purchased a pair of “previously owned” MIT MI-350 Shotgun EVO¹ 1.5 meter “single ended” interconnect cables. These were the best cables I had ever heard in my system. They were so good, that when a pair of their successor cables, MIT Oracle interconnects, became available; I purchased them and used them between my Spectral pre-amp and Spectral amplifier. I moved the Shotgun EVO cables to connect my CD player and pre-amp. The sound was fantastic! However, the Shotgun EVO cables were very heavy due to the large “networks”² built into them. This caused a strain on the RCA jacks on both the CD player and the pre-amp. The stress caused by the weight of the Shotgun EVO cables caused me to start thinking about finding other options. But, I repeat, the sound was fantastic!

I have been a big fan of Harmonic Technology cables since December of 2000. I started with a “Magic One” digital cable. A few months later I purchased two “Magic One” power cords. Over the years I have purchased various interconnect cables. As recently as January 2006, I purchased two additional “Magic Reference” power cords. I have found Harmonic Technology products to provide world-class performance at, relatively, “reasonable” price-points. About one year ago, I had an opportunity to hear a pair of Harmonic Technology CyberLight interconnect cables. I admit that I am not a scientist, so I won’t venture into the technical details of the cables, rather I will refer you to the Harmonic Technology website for an expert discussion. <http://www.harmonictech.com/>

I can tell you, however, that the CyberLight interconnect cables were very well made and very light (sorry, I couldn’t resist the pun). The CyberLight cables

¹ The names of companies and products cited in this note are trademarks and are the property of their owners. Please see their websites for more information. MIT is the acronym for Music Interface Technologies.

² “Networks” is the official name for the large metal boxes built into MIT interconnect and loudspeaker cables.

require electric current to make them work. You are offered two options: a “wall-wart” power supply or a DC battery. Although the battery is heavy, it sits on the floor and is connected by tiny cables. This design is, obviously, very well thought-out. Since it is well known that DC current is superior to AC current for audio, I purchased a battery. Harmonic Technology supplies a wall-wart with the CyberLight cables, however, I have never used it.

Listening tests: First let me remind you, with the MIT 350 Shotgun EVO cables, the sound of my system was excellent! The highs were very extended, without glare or harshness, the midrange was full and rich and the bass was extended and deep. Bass notes were well articulated with their harmonic series revealed. The overall sound was rich with musical detail, with power and finesse. After burning-in the CyberLight interconnects according to the instructions, I used them to replace the Shotgun EVO cables. How did the cables sound, you ask? They were awesome! The CyberLight cables produced everything the Shotgun EVO cables produced plus they revealed a bit more mid-range detail. They were a bit more extended on the high-end and they were able to reproduce deep and tight bass.

After listening to the system with the CyberLight cables for about four months, I had an opportunity to replace the custom made Symdex Sigma/Omega speakers in my system with a pair of ESP Concert Grand SI speakers. This addition brought my system to a whole new level. These speakers allowed the CyberLight cables to really shine! (Sorry.) Thanks to the abilities of the ESP Concert Grand SI speakers, the CyberLight interconnect cables were able to reveal even more overall musically realistic sound.

Conclusion: Dollar-for-dollar and pound-for-pound, the Harmonic Technology CyberLight interconnect cables produced the best sound I have ever heard in my system. Although the MIT Shotgun EVO cables are out of production, you can still find them on the “previously owned” market for \$1,750. (The original retail price was about \$3,400.) The retail price of a 1.5 meter pair of CyberLight cables is just under \$1,500. If you need (or want) XLRs, the retail price is just under \$1,900. The battery, which I highly recommend, is another \$400, however, it can supply power to three pair of CyberLight cables.

I have reached, at least for now, the audiophile holy grail. The contributions of the CyberLight interconnect cables played a critical role. Give them a listen. I guarantee you will see the light!

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