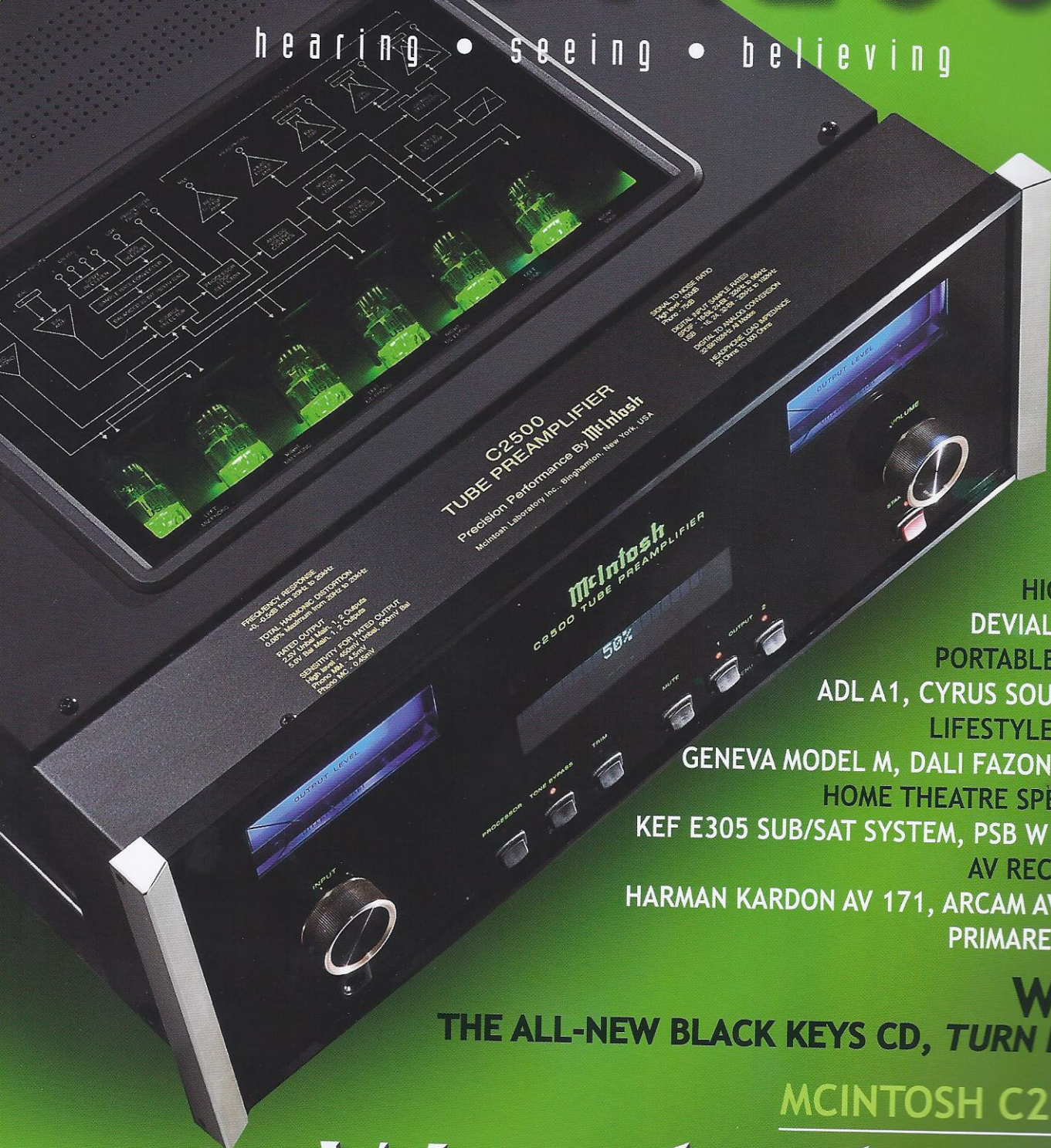


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Wonderbox!



Furutech Flux

The topic of cabling in audio and AV systems remains a controversial and consistently debated one. Some believe that wire is wire, and that fancy cables and interlinks are a waste of money. Others argue that good cables are worth the investment, because they aid signal integrity and counter transmissions losses.

diminishing returns applies, however: the more sophisticated (and more expensive) the cables become, the smaller and more subtle the gains in sonic performance.

Furutech's flagship Flux cable range is offered in different guises: PowerFlux power cables, LineFlux line-level RCA and XLR interconnects, and SpeakerFlux loudspeaker cables. Common to all three is an impressive level of engineering and close attention to construction detail.

The SpeakerFlux cables, for instance, recognise the need for a cable with high current carrying capacity, linked to low resistive loss, while a multiple multi-strand conductor layout utilising Furutech's Alpha OCC Pure Transmission copper effectively creates a large-diameter construction.

As one would expect of Furutech, the connectors – bananas on the amplifier end, spades on the speaker end – are exquisitely crafted, and employ rhodium-plated non-magnetic pure copper, while the banana connector bodies are non-resonant, and feature carbon fibre and stainless steel.

The line-level LineFlux interconnects, offered with either RCA or XLR termination, focus on signal integrity and noise rejection. They utilise a solid-core Alpha OCC pure-copper conductor, protected by a dual layer of shielding, and wrapped in a polyethylene dielectric.

The connectors, like those on the speaker cables, employ a non-resonant design through

And yet, the attention to detail foisted on the Furutech PowerFlux cables suggests that power cables do play an important role in overall sonic performance. In this instance, 68-strand Alpha OCC conductors are twisted around a central core, while the polyethylene dielectric is enclosed in PVC sheath with carbon powder for additional damping, and a nylon braid outer.

The piezo-ceramic connectors are real works of art. They're fashioned from multi-layered carbon fibre,



PowerFlux



LineFlux



SpeakerFlux

I've always believed that the proof of the cable pudding is in the listening. Compare normal twin-core flex cable to a decent oxygen-free copper speaker cable, and you should immediately hear a difference, especially at the extremities of the tonal band.

As is always the case in audio, the law of

the use of carbon fibre and stainless steel, while the pins are rhodium-plated.

Power cables are perhaps the most underrated cables of all. Because they carry power, rather than an audio signal, they tend to be overlooked as important in the overall audio system context.

VITAL STATS

Cable type	.....Power cable, speaker cable, interlinks
Directional	.....Yes
Conductors	
PowerFlux:	.....68-strand Alpha OCC
LineFlux:	.....Solid Alpha OCC
SpeakerFlux:	.... Multi-strand Alpha OCC
Connectors	
PowerFlux:	..... FI-50M piezo-ceramic
LineFlux:	..... Rhodium-plated carbon fibre and stainless steel
SpeakerFlux:	..... Rhodium-plated non-magnetic pure copper
Insulation	.....High-grade polyethylene
Price	
PowerFlux:	..... R25 500 (1,8 m)
LineFlux XLR:	..... R25 900 (1,2 m)
SpeakerFlux:	.. R31 000 (2m stereo pair)

Verdict

Exceptional resolution, wide-open staging and a vivid, lifelike delivery are the key hallmarks of this premium cable system. And you thought those wires couldn't make a difference?

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OUR RATING: 91 / 100



located in an acetal copolymer with high damping and insulating properties, and surrounded by stainless steel bands. Tiny ceramic particles, powdered carbon, nylon and fibreglass are all incorporated to create an inert, non-resonant connector body.

For this review, a full set of Flux cables was used in a system comprising an Electrocompaniet PI-2D integrated amp, Oppo BDP-95EU universal player, and a pair of Dynaudio Excite 38 floor-standing loudspeakers.

I installed the Flux cables incrementally, starting with the power cables, and ending with the speaker cables. Each successive step resulted in an improvement.

On Hugh Laurie's whimsical *Didn't It*

Rain, 'St Louis Blues' opens with just a guitar and keyboards, then builds slowly and sensually, gradually adding instruments until the entire ensemble is in full cry.

With only the PowerFlux cables installed, there was a marked lowering of the noise floor, while the soundstage gained air and dimension, affording each instrument more space and presence.

Adding the interlink further improved the overall resolution, with a richer harvest of especially fine detail and ambient information: instruments were portrayed with greater texture and harmonics, and vocals were projected with a more vivid, lifelike presence.

The SpeakerFlux speaker cables provided

the sonic icing on the top: somehow, the result was greater insight and depth. Now, the Flux-assisted system truthfully captured the essence, the character and the timbre of each instrument, as well as its exact position on the soundstage.

However, instead of just being coldly analytical, the sound was sleek and inviting, with astonishing dimension and immediacy. Yes sir, it sounded like real, vibrant music!

Few of us can afford to splash out the capital required to run an entire system on Furutech's Flux cables and interlinks. But my time with them demonstrated, in no uncertain terms, that the sonic gains can be considerable.

Deon Schoeman



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