



Furutech Evolution II (£480-£665)

Cryogenic treatment and a patented demagnetisation process lie at the heart of all Furutech's audio cables from Japan. Are they the Samurai of wire?

Review: **Paul Miller**

Cable companies do not come much more hi-tech than Furutech as this small selection of its interconnect, speaker and mains cables serves to illustrate. Developed in Japan, all Furutech's power conditioning, cable and connector accessories are subject to its proprietary 'Alpha Process' [see boxout] which is evidently key to maximising their performance.

Connector integrity is also a core feature of Furutech cables. The RCA version of its Evolution Audio II interconnect (£480 for a 1.2m set) includes locking collets that clamp mercilessly to any unsuspecting phono socket. Similarly, the Evolution Speaker II cable (£665 for a 5m set) includes proprietary banana plugs whose split centre pin is expanded into 4mm amplifier/speaker sockets via a threaded wedge. You'd pull your speakers over before the cable came loose.

Even the Evolution Power II mains cable (£495 for a 1.8m length) has its story, with the connectors featuring a jumper system that connects all metallic parts in the IEC and three-pin blocks via a star-earth.

ALPHA PROCESS

All metal parts in Furutech's cables and connectors benefit from its proprietary two-stage 'Alpha Process'. This begins with cryogenic cooling in either liquid nitrogen or helium to temperatures at or below -195°C . The cycle of cooling and gradual warming to room temperature relieves microscopic stresses in the conductor's crystal structure, improving its performance. The final stage in Furutech's processing involves a precisely-controlled demagnetisation using one of Sekiguchi's patented ring demagnetiser machines.



OCC copper is specified for the interconnect with 80x0.18mm strands in each of its symmetrical conductors while six bundles of 20x0.18mm OF-copper suffice per leg of the speaker cable. Each core of the screened mains cable houses seven bundles of 35x0.18mm OF-copper, the finished product emerging at just under 2cm thick!

SHINE A LIGHT!

Furutech's consistent design and manufacturing philosophy breeds a similarly consistent and recognisable signature into the sound of its audio cables. Both the Evolution II interconnect and speaker cable shine a subjective light on the presence and treble, illuminating the edge of percussion and metal-stringed guitars without obviously 'brightening' the overall balance. The Evolution Speaker II has the drier overall balance while the Audio II encourages a more incisive and impactful presentation.

The Power II mains cable, a massive umbilical suitable only for the most physically robust of separates, brings about a tautening of the soundstage, squeezing the timbre of harpsichord from Dan & the Electros' *It's Never Too Late* [Opus 3 SACD 22091] into sharper focus at the expense of some air, space and a 'tensing up' of an otherwise relaxed acoustic. You'll 'see' a difference with some TVs and projectors too. ☺

ABOVE: (Clockwise from top) Evolution Power II mains cable; Evolution Speaker II and Evolution Audio II RCA interconnect – all cryogenically treated and demagnetised

HI-FI NEWS VERDICT

Although many might claim it, very few audiophile cable products can match the precision manufacturing of these Furutech components. Science rather than snake oil is the order of the day here with the Evolution Audio II interconnect emerging as the potential star of our trio under test. Any or all of this Evolution II series could enhance your system's perceived resolution or tend to make it seem a little too 'hi-fi', depending on taste and choice of kit.

Sound Quality: 80%

