

Translated from German from

STEREO

MAGAZIN FÜR HIFI • HIGH END • MUSIK

Layered Conductors



Wireworld's Eclipse7 cables are built differently than other interconnects and speaker cables. Their conductors are arranged into stacks of flat layers. So do they play everything flat?

Cables are literally a dime a dozen. And philosophies, such as what the perfect conductors would look like, are also not in short-age. There are many devices as well as high-quality cables that are coaxial, i.e. built with nested conductors. In 1992 and for many years after, David Salz utilized that concept as the basis for his cable designs. More recently Wireworld has introduced a totally different method to minimize signal loss due to skin-effect, eddy currents and resistance, while avoiding artifacts due to mechanical modulation and other limitations of cables.

At the CES show in Las Vegas, the Americans introduced the

replacement for their previous great "Eclipse" line, called Series 7. The models tested here are the interconnects and speaker cables below the Silver, Gold and Platinum Eclipse models and above the basic models, which have

Eclipse 7 als symmetrische NF-Version (l.) und als Single-Wire LS-Kabel (o.) mit Bananensteckern aus S

earned a reputation as particularly strong sounding competitors over the years. In fact, the Eclipse 6 interconnects are one of the best that made it into Stereo's ultimate "Heaven's Gate" League (test 6/11).

Through detailed work, comprehensive modifications were developed to make the Eclipse 7 even better. Salz changed the insulation material to a polymer composite called "Composilex 2", which has dielectric qualities that are supposed to reduce audible losses and noise caused by movement within the cable. The cables enclose the

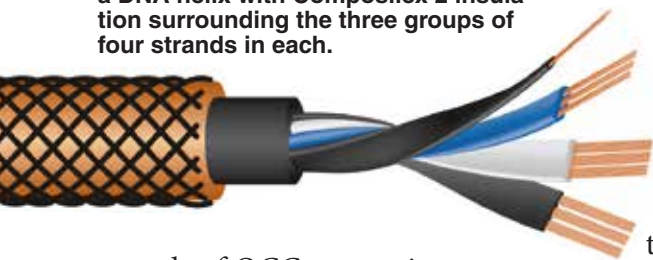
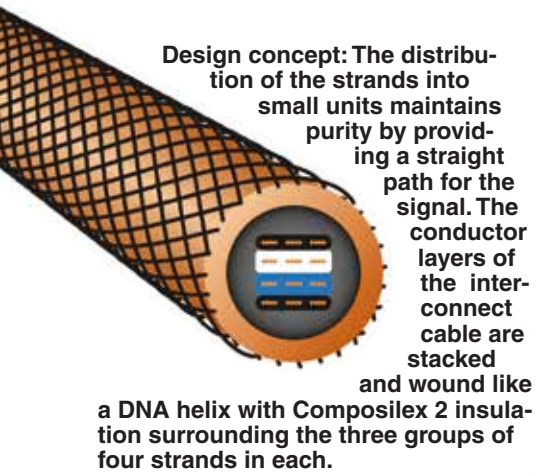
Längen & Preise

WireWorld Eclipse 7 (Geräte-kabel)

2x 0,5 m in Cinch oder XLR um 325 Euro
2x 1 m in Cinch oder XLR um 450 Euro
2x 3 m in Cinch oder XLR um 950 Euro

WireWorld Eclipse 7 (Lautsprecher-kabel)

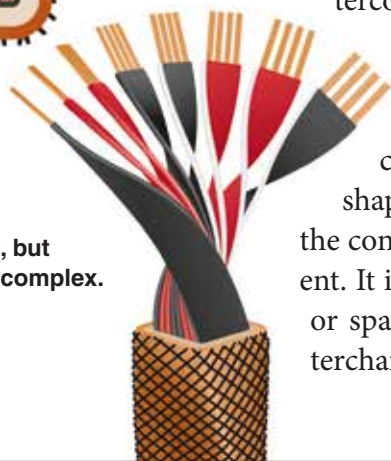
2x 2 m als Single-Wire konf. um 1300 Euro
2x 3 m wie oben um 1800 Euro
2x 5 m wie oben um 2800 Euro
Beispiele, weitere Längen im Angebot



strands of OCC copper in groups of three to four within flat conductors. These conductors spiral like a DNA helix around each other. With their recently developed measurement methods for cables, David Salz intends to effectively avoid all sources of error and optimize all of the electromagnetic properties of the cables.



The Eclipse 7 speaker cable design is the same as the interconnect, but considerably more complex.



A clear step forward

Right away the interconnect cable shows tonal refinement that marks the course of progress in audio. While the benefits of the Eclipse 6 interconnects have made them very useful in tests and still close to the best available, music on the Eclipse 7 sounds noticeably more open, airy, fast-paced and therefore also more spatial.

So this advance purifies the sound and overcomes the limitation of its less sensitive predecessor in the upper frequencies, a slightly tinted, although barely perceptible loss of lifelike overtones, which are so important to the listening experience. In fact, a hint of this improvement was suggested when we brought forth top of the line interconnects from Tchernov Audio Reference and 44 Ag by Silent Wire. Nonetheless, the Eclipse 7 cables ultimately regained the lead because of their great improvements. Furthermore, a big plus is that the costs did not increase with the quality. Conclusion: A better cable is probably not to be had for 450 euros.

The interior structure of the interconnect is relatively unchanged, but the flat and wide format of Eclipse 6 speaker cable has changed to a new square shape, and the arrangement of the conductors is radically different. It is fitted with banana plugs or spades that can easily be interchanged. During the test, the

Eclipse 6 speaker cable facilitated an extremely crisp, stable and energetic playing, as if we were experiencing the jewel of the family. Is it still? Probably not, but still it's a really great cable. However, with the jump to Series 7, that position could have changed. But not quite, as the new speaker cable offers a downright stunning intensity and power in the lower registers, it provides rich harmonies and studiously maintains this calm and clarity even when played loud, so great is its dynamic performance. The Eclipse 7 interconnect in particular stands out in terms of transparency and agility. The speaker cable has an explosively brilliant physicality and expressiveness, although it doesn't overtake the interconnect as the most impressive cable in the product line, since it's considerably more expensive than the Eclipse 7 interconnect.

Strong individually and as a team

We liked both cables for their consistency, whereas the interconnects must be described as strictly neutral, the finishing touch is the speaker cable's delivery of small nuance, while both excel at reproducing sonorous voices. We have investigated the Eclipse 7 cables, both together and in conjunction with cables from other manufacturers with whom they can easily be combined. Both individually and as a team, they are hard to beat and especially the interconnects are true value leaders.

Matthias Böde