

KLEI gZero6 ICs by SU

For me, over the years there has been a steady progression, audition and purchasing of audio equipment and cables. My journey started with entry level Luxman products and moved towards higher sensitivity speakers and bespoke valve amplifiers. I had entry level cables and then upgraded to good quality entry level cable around the \$80 price point. After visiting friend's homes and listening to systems with power filtration, isolation cones and high quality power cables and interconnects, I soon realized that there was room for improvement in my system and that this was a hobby that I could enjoy and work towards a sound that I liked and identified with.

My tentative first step was to trial in my system some high quality cables from Nordost. I tried Red Dawn, Frey2, Heimdall2 and Tyr. The next obstacle to encounter was to decide if I could hear a difference. This was done firstly by myself and then with my partner and friends. Opinions were encouraged and hopefully not shaped. I was convinced that I could hear subtle differences between the different cables.

So now, having owned and trialled a number of interconnects over the years, such as Nordost Red Dawn ICs, Nordost Frey2 ICs, Nordost Tyr ICs, ETI Quiescence 3000 ICs, MLenahan Rflex ICs and KLEI™gZero20 ICs, I have a reasonable perspective on quality cables and know they can make a difference in my system.

One of the determining factors in a lot of decisions is price. To me I have always tried to achieve a balance that is a balance between quality, performance, and value for money. Those that don't hear subtle differences or are not concerned with trying to hear the subtle differences, end their cable journey quickly.

I am moved by the music, I get immersed in it, and I find it restorative. So, I look for tweaks, I experiment, I listen, and then I listen some more. But, I want a balance and I have a budget.

So, as mentioned, my first step into the deep end of interconnects was with the much respected Nordost. Their cables look the part so I started with Red Dawn and then moved on to Frey 2, after a lot of auditioning, but that was only the start of the journey. I then discovered the KLEI™gZero6 ICs and found another level of cables and it was through the KLEI™gZero6 ICs I was introduced to cable Settling Time.

Settling Time

With all KLEI cables there is a Settling period. I didn't believe or understand this at first, but now I am a firm believer in the effect of settling. They also require a burn in period of at least 300 hours and these were well and truly burnt in. The benefit of a settling period was clearly demonstrated at a friend's house when we slowly added the KLEI™gZero20 ICs and the KLEI™gZero6 SCs and listened for an extended period to his favourite music. When it was time to go the KLEI™gZero20 ICs were removed and the Nordost ICs re-instated. The sound stage collapsed and the edge returned and all those in the room stopped and just shook their heads. There was a doctor present, who was not a cable or hifi person at all, but he couldn't believe the difference, he said, "what happened, what did you do to the sound?"

Listening Impressions

After some Settling Time the cables started to hit their stride. Musicality is what these cables are about. They have the detail and resolution that we all want, but with a beautiful harmonic richness, that is just so nice. The highs are still there, just as highs, but they are not edgy. This is not like putting on sunglasses and filtering everything, because the sound actually becomes bigger. You can turn it down a little because the detail is there, but it is right across the whole spectrum and are not boomy and glary. The mids are liquid and life like and the soundstage is big.



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To my ears it sounds more real and I can identify with the performance, not just better, but more profound. I get more connected. And that is what this audio hobby is about for me. I like to feel the music and the KLEI™gZero6 ICs, help that to happen.

To me, these are great value cables. They perform exceptionally well at their price point and are better value than cables that are a lot more expensive. As an initial step into the deep end, or the high end of audio cables, these cables will deliver harmonic richness, resolution and sound stage.

A lot of science, a lot of development and a lot of trials have contributed to the evolution of the KLEI™gZero6 ICs. The almost understated elegance of the product aesthetics is perfect for me because I don't need bling, I don't want glitter, I just want it to sound right.

The KLEInnovation™gZero6 ICs, have been in my system for over 12 months now and they do sound right.

In fact, they sound better than ever ... SU 😊😊😊

System/Equipment

- **Source:** AudioLab 8200 CD player and PSAudio Direct Stream DAC
- **Analogue:** ProJect Extension 10 Triangle Art Zeus cartridge Conrad Johnson Phono stage
- **Pre amp:** Conrad Johnson ET5
- **Amplifier:** Audio Analogue Donizetti Cento (modified), Weston Acoustic 300b mono blocks
- **Speakers:** 3 way horn system

