

KLEI gPOWER2 AC power cable by Adam Cormack (Eden Audio)

Before I begin this review of the new KLEI powercord, let me give you a little bit of an idea of how my mind works to when it comes to building an audio system. For those that know me quite well they will know that my starting point is always the room in which is the Hi-Fi system is going to be listened in, for others they may say source first, or that speakers make the biggest difference, while both cases are extremely valid, I believe firstly your room will have the biggest difference and create a huge effect on how your system will sound. So where does this leaves cables, or in this case powercords?

Let me get back to that question later and bring your attention to another point. I am also extremely simple at describing sound and I am the Homer Simpson in my world of simple thinking. It is either one of two things and that is that it either sounds good or it sounds bad. Why so simple? Basically because it is so hard to describe what we hear, for sure we can use the flowery language, or use terminology that baffles brains, but me I like to keep it simple so the other person can understand what I/you are saying without sounding like a slippery cars salesman drooling for a sale.

So what kind of sound am I looking for? I tend to go for what is described as a round earth presentation style over the flat earth's pace rhythm and timing. I like a sound that sounds natural, unforced, holographic, a sound that breaks free for the speakers and fills the room with sound, vocals must be pure and realistic, bass must be well controlled and clean with no boom or overhang, treble must be natural, not harsh, bright, but smooth, a sound that you can listen to for hours on end without feeling fatigue.

So let's get back to the point, powercables, how important are powercables? When Keith first contacted me announcing his new powercables, the first thought that came in to my head was, oh please, don't let them be over 1000euros cos I'm not really that interested. To be honest even if they were 800euros I would have probably felt the same feeling in my gut. I go over all queasy with these kind of products and feel slightly uncomfortable with them, so when I see KLEI prices I felt a sigh of relief and let's be honest to 99% of people they would consider it a huge amount of money but to a music lover looking to get more from his system the 300-400euros bracket is quite reasonable in today's terms. One of my most popular cables in this price bracket is the very popular Oyaide Tunami, so how would the new KLEI fair?

The system I had on hand to test them with was a Sonneteer Alabaster amplifier, a Sonneteer Byron CD player (I do mainly use streaming from a NAS more these days than using a CD player), speakers were Mambos from Ophidian Audio, also like Sonneteer based in England.

Today bling seems to sell well, making your cables look as pretty as possible helps them to sell well, but the KLEI are really quite plain to look at, nothing fancy going on here, they are not entering the Miss World beauty contest for Hi-Fi power cables. What I really do like about the KLEI are how flexible they feel. Heaven help me with stiff power cords that yank on your kit, or they are just so inflexible you can even twist them in to their socket, grrrr, but these are a joy to use, though quite chunky they flex and bend with ease, ah lovely.



So come on, how do they sound? get to the meat! I employed two 1 metre cables for my review, one on the amp and the other on the CD player and let them run in. My first test disc was Dead Can't Dance. I chose this disc because I wanted to hear what kind of vocal presentation these cables could perform. The Dead Can't Dance albums always produce great presence in the vocals, something that appeals to my kind of sound. I like to be able to hear what the singer is singing about and I like to feel they are singing directly to me.

With the KLEI powercords in place I felt a **spine-tingly presence** coming from the Ophidian loudspeakers, **such great clarity** and **realism!** Voices sounded **powerful, clear,** and **intelligible.** I like that, I was more than satisfied, you know

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sometimes you hear sounds and the voices sound are stuck inside the speakers, 'help, let me out' there is no projection to the sound, no realism, with the KLEI's in place the sound & the vocals become very **tangible** and **real**. I'm beginning to get the feeling that these cables **major on transparency**. I'm not really familiar with the KLEI house sound, but my initial impressions of these powercables is that they are **very informative** and **transparent in the midrange**.

Moving on I dug out my Police CD, now for such good music the Police's CD recordings somehow managed to sound harshly recorded. How would the KLEI handle this CD? Again from just listening to 'Roxanne', Sting's unmistakable voice has once again **great projection** and **clarity**, Coplands drums have **great thwack** to the snare, the drum kit sounds **tight** and **well controlled**. Compared to say the Oyaide Tunami powercords, I feel that the Oyaide's have more richness to the sound and more bass weight, but the KLEI majors on an **extremely transparent** and **clear clean sound**. Stereo imagery is like a classy lens that is in full focus, the sound that greets you is focused, **direct** and **clean with stunning presence**. Which is better is down to personal preference and system matching.

Does this mean the KLEI powercord would make you more fatigued easily with sound? Heck No!! The **KLEI** leaves you in no doubt that you are listening to something that **sounds live**, there is always a difference when listening to a recording or when you're listening to something live. There is just something about the vocals that makes you realise straight away it's not real, let's just say that the **KLEI's take you a little bit closer to that realism**.

To completely satisfy myself I just wanted to try one more CD in my collection (I do have more than 3!). One I knew sounded very well recorded and that was by Chris Isaak, 'Wicked Games'. Just from the first few bars and opening lyrics to this song you know you are in for a treat, **the realism is simply sublime**. It is **eerily good**, it **sends a shiver down your back**, the hairs on the back of your neck will **rise in salute**, it's **just wonderful**, such **transparency and realism, incredible**. We are not talking a mega buck or mega euro priced system or cables here, but the sound you get **is like being in the studio**. It simply doesn't cover the cracks, it's a take it or leave it presentation, maybe such transparency isn't your cup of tea, but **these powercords offer the 9th degree of clarity in the midrange**. Maybe you lose a tad of bass weight overall, but you gain in purity in the rest of the frequency range. Listening to rest of Isaaks CD you are left in no doubt to the **naturalness** and **cleanliness of the sound**. I hate cliches but it really **is like a cleaned window** that hasn't been cleaned after a long hot dusty summer, jeez, did I really just say that!!



So in my conclusion I would summarise this cable up in one word **TRANSPARENCY**, this new bad boy is so **clean** and **revealing**. It doesn't really add anything to the sound per se, it just puts it all in **super sharp focus**. It doesn't make the sound warmer, sweeter, Hi-Fi sounding etc. If you want to **feel like you're in the studio** then this really comes **highly recommended**. If you don't want to hear maybe any weaknesses in your system then maybe look elsewhere, but for those who want the **truth, clarity, cleanliness** then look no further these power cords are **stunning**.

KLEI™gPOWER2 AC Cable

Custom made KLEI EU/AU plugs & IEC socket, to any length

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