

# KLEI™Classic Harmony Banana – Connector/Adaptor) Review

## How can it be used as a Connector & Adapter

by Steve Reeve

To this point I had only auditioned the KLEI™Classic Harmony banana – Connector & Adaptor as a simple banana plug installed onto my speaker cables. But as the name implies, the KLEI™Classic Harmony banana – Connector & Adaptor actually provides additional flexibility in areas where other banana connectors fall short.

For Example...

- It is very simple to create quality bi-wire jumpers, to allow the use of single run speaker cables with loudspeakers that have bi-wired terminals, without having to reconfigure the actual cable in some way. The existing banana on the speaker cables can simply plug into the back of KLEI™Classic Harmony banana on the link itself.
- OR... If you are using bi-wired speakers with bi-wire cables, but only have a single pair of binding posts on your amplifier, you can simply insert the banana plug into the binding post of the amp and then insert both bananas of your bi-wire cables into the KLEI™Classic Harmony banana, again, without having to reconfigure the cables. Basically it operates as an adapter.
- OR... If you need to hook up a subwoofer via the loudspeaker terminals, the KLEI™Classic Harmony banana can be attached on the speaker cables and the subwoofer cables at the speaker for easy installation. Now, you might be thinking that "stacking" banana plugs for either of these scenarios could cause some degradation of the audio signal. After all, it is generally accepted that sound quality improves when there are fewer "interfaces" in the electrical path. Adding interfaces is bound to degrade performance to some degree?



However, the KLEI™Classic Harmony banana, as it turns out, is far more advanced than any other banana connector I have encountered, in that...

- It can actually improve sound quality when used as a simple interface between the binding post of an amplifier or loudspeaker and the existing banana plugs on a speaker cable.

Huh - ???

That was my (initial) reaction!

- How can adding a banana plug "interface" into the signal path improve sound quality?

And, if you think about it  
It is actually two banana plugs  
One at each end of the speaker cable!

But when Keith Louis Eichmann (KL), requested I audition the KLEI™Classic Harmony banana as in this very scenario, and "hinted at the possibility", OK "strongly inferred", that I would hear discernible improvements, let's just say there was "some degree" of ambivalence - on my part.

So, setting aside my ambivalence, I installed a new set of the KLEI™Classic Harmony bananas into the binding posts of my speakers and amplifier, that are part of my Audio/Video system, and listened to them throughout the burn-in process.

- The connected components of my A/V system is a Bluesound PowerNode 2 digital streamer/amplifier and Tannoy Mercury Fusion 4 tower speakers.



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- Not perhaps the highest resolving components out there, but solid performers that punches above their “weight-class” due to the installation some many months ago of high performance power and speaker cables.
- The existing bananas on my cables are of the tubular spring variety and silver plated.

### So, how do they sound?

Initially, I was unable to discern any immediate improvements, but then again, there was no sign of sound quality degradation either.

As I listened, the recommended 125 hours burn-in period seemed to shorten, as some improvements seemed to materialize earlier than I had expected...

- At around the 80 hour mark there seemed to be improved focus and improved artist placement within the image
- At around the 100 hour mark the upper register of violins and cymbal reproduction had more body and tone and were far smoother than before
- By the time the 125 hours has elapsed I was also able to discern improved clarity and just a hint of improved dynamic performance and the warmth at the high-end had permeated thought he mid frequencies also

For me, most developments in the world of Audio/Hi-fi have a rational explanation e.g.

- Why one amplifier sounds better than another - better power supplies, capacitors, etc.
- Why one cable sounds better than another - better materials and geometries etc.
- Why one connector sounds better than another - better materials, better clamping etc.

But why the KLEI™ Classic Harmony banana improves the sound of existing cables/bananas has left me without explanation and KL has not offered any insight, other than to say it is due to his proprietary formulation and advanced manufacturing processes.

If I were asked, prior to performing this audition, if I thought a connector could improve sound quality when used in this manner - I would have said NO!

Now - I have a very different opinion. Would I recommend using KLEI™ Classic Harmony banana in this manner as a simple adapter? Well - that’s a tricky one...

- after all I do promote the use of quality connectors that screw on
- in this case it is just a push-on adapter, so to use as a proof of concept, perhaps yes

For me, this audition has proven that using the KLEI™ Classic Harmony banana for bi-wire applications, such as those above, is without any risk of degrading sound quality and would in all likelihood prove beneficial.

So, as it turns out the name of this banana is actually very well suited. The KLEI™ Classic Harmony banana is just that... a Banana plug, a Connector, and an Adapter but far more than that...

**It’s an incredible achievement!**



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### Summation

It took a while to bring the KLEI™Classic Harmony banana to market but I have to award kudos to Keith Louis Eichmann, and his team, for taking their time to "get it right".

The KLEI™Classic Harmony banana appear to allow every detail and nuance of the recording to be conveyed with amazing clarity and dexterity - something I have not observed to this level in any similar product.

They really are - THE Banana Plug you want at the end of your speaker cables!

I give them my "Best Bang for the Buck" award.

### My Review System

- Custom built turntable with a Soundsmith Denon DL103 phono cartridge mounted on an Audiomods Arm with one piece silver litz harness + KLEI™Absolute Harmony plugs
- Simaudio MOON LP5.3 RS phono stage
- Bluesound Node 2 music server
- NAIM 5i integrated amp (with passive pre-section)
- Gershman Acoustics Sonogram speakers
- DIY Speaker Cables - The HELIX Speaker
- DIY Power Cables - The POWER HELIX
- DIY Interconnect Cables - The Helix Mark V



*A highly recommended product*

[Steve Reeve \(Fine Art\)](#)