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## KLEI™QSeries SCs (Speaker Cables)

by John Ransley (Totally Wired)

### KLEI QSeries SCs

The new range of KLEI™QSeries SCs effectively replace all previous models. While evolutionary, the changes made to the speaker cables themselves when combined with the KLEI™Harmony bananas deliver a big improvement, and take all KLEI™QSeries SCs to a level that very few other cables can match regardless of cost. Each set of the KLEI QSeries SCs are individually handmade and terminated.

**Making your music sound much better – the innovative new QSeries audio cables from Keith Louis Eichmann.**

While most speaker cable literally comes 'off the roll', each set of the KLEI SCs is individually handmade and terminated. But this is part of why the KLEI cables are better.

Virtually every other cable employs exactly the same conductors and configuration for the positive and negative parts of the design. The KLEI cable is fundamentally different in this regard with not just differing materials but also a visibly different cable architecture between positive and negative conductors.

Yet of all the points of difference, **it's the connectors used that appear to be the most significant contributor to the superior sound quality** that our clients hear in their KLEI SCs.

So let's look first at the KLEI bananas. We introduced the [KLEI™Classic Harmony Banana](#) in February 2018 – this was the first banana that I've ever found to make a significant and repeatable improvement to the sound quality of speaker cables. The magnitude of the upgrade made when I replaced the existing gold plated bananas on the SCs we use for demonstration was compelling and **I strongly recommend that every existing KLEI and SlinkyLinks speaker cable owner does likewise** – I'm more than happy to do the soldering for you.

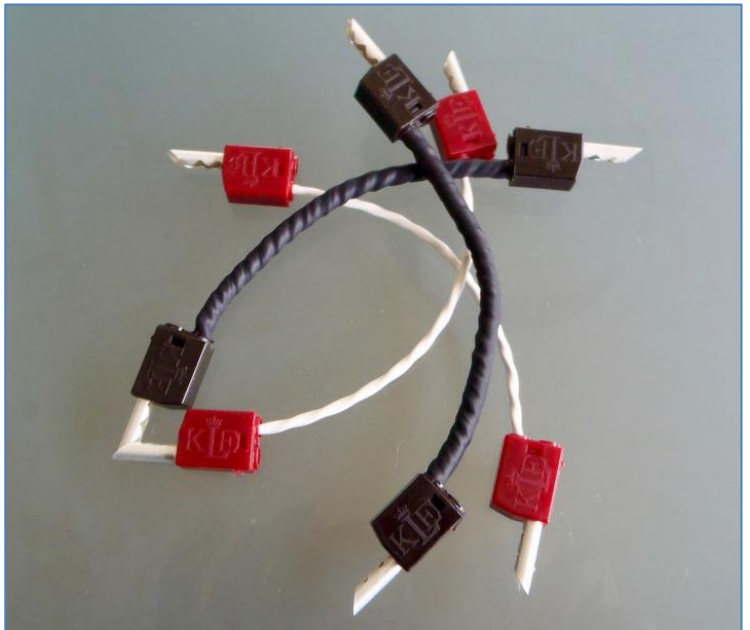
At the same time, the **KLEI™QFLOW7 bi-wire jumpers** proved to be equally impressive – these make for a superior alternative to running two sets of speaker cables, providing more detail and coherence. Not to mention being much tidier and often lower in cost.

Shortly afterwards, the **KLEI™QPURITY8 bi-wire jumpers** arrived. Suffice to say the performance is at another level again. More organic, free flowing and balanced. Visually it is obvious that while a short length of cable (100mm), the Q8s are a different construction, but at first glance the bananas appear to be the same. Appearances can be deceiving.

The KLEI™PureQ Harmony banana is made in the same way as the KLEI™Classic Harmony banana – a flat thin section of sheet metal, rolled and folded in a precise origami-like fashion with a very simple red or black insulator. But like KL's legendary Harmony and Bullet RCA plugs, it's the design and metallurgy that makes the difference to the end performance. He's justified in not telling us exactly what is in there for obvious IP (Intellectual Property) reasons so outside of the silver finish we can only guess but I do have a few ideas.

What I do know is that the KLEI™Classic Harmony bananas sound great but the KLEI™PureQ Harmony banana is even better again and by a worthwhile margin. And it's this banana that features on all the new speaker cables, with the exception of the entry level KLEI™QFLOW2 SCs. **You cannot buy the PureQ banana separately.**

The new range of speaker cables effectively replace all previous models. While evolutionary, the changes made to cables themselves when combined with the PureQ bananas deliver a big improvement and take all KLEI speaker cables to a level that very few other cables can match regardless of cost.



By way of context, our initial slow uptake with the KLEI SCs was due to the outward similarities of them to the NZ made SlinkyLinks which had been our long term reference speaker cables and part of our home system for many years. Yet in the 3 or so years we've been dealing with KL, I've been astonished by how far we have come with the speaker cables – there have been obvious performance gains at the entry level and the above this, each step has been immediate and beneficial.

When compared to the original KLEI™gZERO6 SCs it was obvious that our own custom made SlinkyLinks were being left in the shade. The KLEI cables deliver really solid punchy bass, a much larger soundstage, and are more detailed and smoother. The background seems a lot blacker/darker and sounds just seem to hang. We found that the music carried much further into the room, and even when not listening seriously, there were parts of the music that previously unheard, captured our attention. The character became much more organic with no overstated glare. The subsequent upgrade to the Classic Harmony bananas was transformational and has taken our home listening to a place I'd never imagined.

The KLEI™QFLOW2 SCs are the new entry level, fitted with the Classic Harmony banana – they sound sweet and open.

The KLEI™QFLOW3 SCs replace and outperform the similarly priced KLEI™gZERO6 SCs – so don't let the numbering system confuse you. With KLEI™PureQ Harmony bananas and refined conductor architecture, you're getting a big improvement.

The KLEI™QFLOW7 SCs produce greater scale and have even better bass performance and dynamics – these are now our go-to SCs for most systems.

The KLEI™QPURITY8 SCs, it is hard to imagine anything better than the KLEI™QPURITY8 SCs – just hearing how the original zPURITY level SCs responded to the banana upgrade is one of the most impressive changes I've ever personally experienced. To extrapolate from this with both better bananas and conductors is a conceptual challenge but I'll try to articulate what you'll hear –

I have played with more costly cables with seriously over engineered terminations and buckets of audio glitz – but none have approached what the best of the KLEI cables do – the music simply flows out of these in a way that allows you to hear the very best of what your amplifiers and speakers are capable of. In the past I balked at the idea of carrying cables at this price level in stock. But given the price equivalency of these to the KLEI™PURITY88 ICs which I have no hesitation in recommending, it has become a bit of a no-brainer to have these.

While outwardly similar to the other KLEI™QFLOW SCs, the performance of the KLEI™QPURITY SCs is quite astonishing – you really need to hear this for yourself.



The radical improvement in both performance and price of the electronics we carry has reshaped our expectations of what systems can do and the balance required to optimise them. The best digital is especially good but also affordable and this is allowing us to allocate more for speakers (which have also improved but perhaps not by the same quantum).

What this all does is make the link between the two all the more crucial – there is more and better signal, and speakers have become more revealing and sensitive. Combine these two parts and the way in which a speaker cable performs becomes far more critical.

The resolution of these systems makes the difference between SCs far more obvious than ever. And this is why there is a place for SCs such as the KLEI QPURITY8 SCs. All the signal from all your musical sources go through this link – the more you have, the more you stand to gain. Likewise very few people have ever heard their speakers performing at their absolute best – but the QPURITY8 SCs will take you a lot closer top this point.

With all of the KLEI models, you are probably going to be conscious of the cost – if you can subtly reposition amp and speakers to reduce the length required all well and good but it's worth remembering that all speakers will have an optimum position in the room and with the improvements gained by new cables, you should have the flexibility to take full advantage of this. But for most people, somewhere between 1.5m and 3m will often be ideal. The KLEI SCs are both discrete and pliant so will normally run via the shortest route.



With all models of KLEI SCs, the new KLEI Bi-wire jumpers are an absolute no-brainer with any speakers that have this option. In the past I might have debated the efficacy of bi-wiring verses improving cable quality. Now the equation is much simpler.

Combining the QFLOW3 SCs and QFLOW7 SCs, with the QFLOW7 jumpers will optimise the performance of the cables while making sense in terms of total cost by staying well below that of the next level up in cable.

With the QPURITY8 SCs, there is only one logical option – the matching QPURITY8 jumpers as these are identical in construction, metallurgy and banana.

Different lengths? Normally I have no problem with the idea of having different length speaker cables in an asymmetrically set up system and at home this is exactly what we have with 2m to one speaker and 6m to the one furthest from the amplifier. But the nature of the KLEI cables means that there are quite possibly greater effects due to the differing positive and negative conductor layouts than you might otherwise get. To this end KL is not especially keen on making such sets. While the difference between two varied cables in the QFLOW3 SCs is probably acceptable for most, the higher resolution and capabilities of the QPURITY8 SCs mean our best recommendation is to always have identical runs in this case.



So – are you still with us? I'll try to simplify our best recommendations...

1. If you have speakers with bi-wire binding posts, the new KLEI Jumpers should always be your first consideration as these will give you the greatest and most cost effective improvement, regardless of cable type. And they set the stage for any further improvements.
2. The new KLEI™PureQ Harmony bananas are a major part of the SCs performance. Outside of the entry level (QFLOW2 SCs), no-one else has access to these and they are fitted as standard to the QFLOW3 & 7 SCs, QPURITY8 SCs, and KLEI Jumpers.
3. Keep your SCs as short as practicable – this saves you money and quite possibly allows you to get a better model. Sets can be made from 1.5m upwards.
4. Still unconvinced? Then email me (John Ransley, Totally Wired) and we'll spin you a demonstration set – I'd love you to hear what they do!



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