

Cable - Guru



We received cables from Australia that are reminiscent of the Eichmann Bullet Plug. That's no coincidence.

Tom Frantzen

In the early 1940s, RCA developed the two-pole plug, called 'Cinch' in Germany, which quickly became the standard for unbalanced audio connections, for the next half a century. Apart from mechanical details, such as the captive compression fitting, it remained virtually unchanged.

This is until far away in Australia, a man named Keith Louis Eichmann first came up with the idea of shaking things up by reducing the mass, the geometry, and the relationships between the conductors.

Suddenly, the differences between the plugs grew beyond those of the cables! The Bullet Plug was born. That's a good 18 years ago. The principle was also applied to the speaker connection, where experienced listeners had already noticed that, for example. The hollow banana sounded so much better than its massively laboured brothers.

Today, Keith Louis Eichmann, in his company KLE Innovations, tinkers with the construction and metallurgy of the protected KLEI Harmony (Bullet) Plug.

The signal conductor is hollow, the ground contact point is precisely defined in terms of eddy current, the proprietary mathematical modelling of the signal and ground conductors is critical and derives the architecture and metallurgy that is utilised. The Harmony plug variants only utilise high conductivity metals, such as copper (101%) and silver (106%). Poor conductivity metals, such as tin (15%), palladium/platinum (16%), brass (25-37%), rhodium (35-38%), and even gold (65-75%), are not used.

LENGTHS & PRICES

KLEI gZERO1 ICs (RCA/Cinch)
Pre-assembled stereo-set in 1meter length
around 365 Euro

KLEI zPURITY88 ICs (RCA/Cinch)
Pre-assembled stereo-set in 1meter length
around 2500 Euro

KLEI QPURITYB SCs (Banana)
Pre-assembled stereo-set in 2meter length
around 1965 Euro



Keith Louis Eichmann is not only an inventor but a sympathetic contemporary

Of course, the plug philosophy continues to be utilised in the loudspeaker or interconnect cables, where instead of the usual focus, the capacitive and inductive (reactive) are sought to be controlled without interaction with the signal conductor. According to Eichmann, not taking this approach, leads to smear. Eichmann does not reveal the cables architecture.

To assess the Eichmann philosophy, STEREO had in house, the entry-level gZERO1 ICs, one of the top interconnects zPURITY888 ICs, and one of the top speaker cables QPURITY8 SCs, which were initially allowed to play for a longer period of time, since KLEI recommends up to a few hundred hours for this process.

In fact, the almost astonishing clarity of the musical performance is noticeable on the slightly thinner gZERO1 ICs and utilises the Copper Harmony plug. The amazing purity and effortlessness that goes hand in hand with broadband and speed without appearing too thin, as is the case with some cables. This is a character of the earlier and simpler ETI cables with Bullet Plugs. In the 400 Euro class it is certainly the cream of the crop.

According to expectations and thankfully, this impression increases in all criteria with the more elaborate and much more expensive zPURITY888 ICs and utilises the Perfect Harmony plug.

METALLURGY, ARCHITECTURE AND ELECTRICS

While most cable manufacturers focus on cable impedance, KLE Innovation does not ignore it, but focuses on mathematical modelling, architecture, metallurgy, materials, and conductivity to actively eliminate any mass crosstalk to the signal conductors, skin effect, and/or eddy current effects, as already utilised in the Harmony plug and where everything began.

Externally, especially the slim speaker cable (2) in braided finish with the low-mass and hollow bananas, look



unspectacular. At first glance this is difficult to communicate, given the price is around 2000 euros, but this is part of the concept.

Audiophiles should also look at the plugs that come in five different grades from Classic to Absolute Harmony.

The gZERO1 ICs (1) must be seen as a highlight of the professional class.

The zPURITY888 ICs (3) and the QPURITY8 SCs (2) are without any doubt, 'Heaven's Gate'. Highly musical - respect!

Here, in addition to the even finer detail resolution and 'more air', increased control and authority in the bass, dynamics, physicality, colourfulness, and as with legitimate high-end cables you can expect precise staging and imaging properties. If you like, it's like the difference between a DVD and a Blu-ray. The zPURITY888 ICs are one of my cable favourites.

Do not let the exterior appearance deceive you with the QPURITY8 SCs (speaker cable). Regardless of the rather small cross-sectional appearance, with these the system explodes, both in terms of spatial and acoustical depth. From a soft-warm timbre, the dynamics are downright explosive and relentless.

What are the best KLEI cables and why are they unlike many other cables? Refined. Be sure to listen! ■

CONTACT
Audio Int'l
Tel: +49 69 503570
www.audio-intl.com

**Kabel klingen,
weil sie filtern.
Diese Weisheit
kann man hier
vergessen.
Wirklich gut!**