



Keith Louis Enterprises & Innovations (KLEI)
 Phone: +61 (0) 406614044
 Email: KLEInnovations@gmail.com
 Skype: EichersKL
www.KLEInnovations.com

John Ransley, Totally Wired, New Zealand
 NZ (Toll Free): 0800 909 101
 Ph: +64 (0)3 4790 444 Mob: +64 (0)21963321
 Email: info@totallywired.co.nz
www.totallywired.co.nz

KLEI™ QSeries ICs (Interconnects)

by John Ransley (Totally Wired)

KLEI QSeries ICs/XLRs

The new KLEI QSeries models of analogue audio ICs replace the previous KLEI GZSeries models. With new plugs, conductors and internal architecture, not to mention a rather attractive and distinctive coloured sleeving – the new QFLOW and QPURITY ICs are radically better in both absolute performance and value.

The range has been simplified and broadened with just four models but a real lift of performance at the high end. Keith Louis (KL) is obsessive about better sound quality. This passion drives KL to continually improve his cables to the point that we sometimes struggle to keep up. You'll hear an ease and clarity with these cables that I'm still trying to find the right words for. As with all of KL's cables they improve with use and there's something new every time you listen. Rest assured that you'll be thrilled from the very first moment you hear them in your own system.



The following are my observations of the KLEI QSeries ICs...

KLEI™ QFLOW1 ICs are the new entry level model, yet are anything but when compared to other cables. The plugs used are responsible for a significant part of the performance. The KLEI Harmony range RCA plugs are a story in themselves and the QFLOW1s employ one of the best plugs in this range – the Pure Harmony – which was previously only used in the previous, and far more costly, zPURITY ICs. The conductors within the cable are actually thinner but of higher quality. A studied, optimised, and in most cases a minimalist approach to mass actually results in better sound – and better electron and energy flow. The performance of the new QFLOW1 ICs is so good that they have replaced the previous first three gZERO models in the previous GZSeries.



pure copper and/or even pure silver. I strongly suspect the latter is involved, as the QFLOW3 ICs are adept at delivering noticeably more fine detail than the QFLOW1 ICs. This model replaces the previous gZERO6 and gZERO10 models in the previous GZSeries.

KLEI™ QFLOW3 ICs employ a new KLEI Harmony RCA plug that made expressly for this QSeries IC model and is extremely tightly tolerated – the KLEI SILVERQ Harmony plugs. While we don't know exactly how the conductors within the cable are arranged we can tell you that Keith is committed to implementing and using only conductors that are as, or more, conductive than

KLEI™ QFLOW7 ICs, now we are getting serious. The QFLOW7 ICs take us into territory previously mapped out by KL's PURITY level ICs. Again, a bespoke version of the Harmony plug is used – in this case, the KLEI ABSOLUTEQ Harmony RCA plug. Aside from that and the label, there is nothing you can physically see that differentiates this cable from the QFLOW1 & 3 models, below it! The actual thickness appears to be the same and it shares the same easy pliancy, yet sound-wise, we move to an even higher level of performance. The detail, the utterly quiet background, and sheer organic flow of the music, has to be heard to be understood. While these cables cost as much as many components, the effect they have is often greater than the same amount spent trying to upgrade by changing brands or models. It really is transformational.



KLEI™ QFLOW7 XLRs, while they don't have the benefit of the KLEI Harmony RCA plugs, the carefully selected XLR connectors and balanced configuration delivers directly comparable performance to the QFLOW7 ICs and in the case of genuinely balanced components, this is a worthwhile option to consider for the same price.

KLEI™ QPURITY∞∞∞∞ ICs, I wasn't sure I was ready for these ICs when we first got them. Unlike the other 3 QFLOW models in the range, the sheathing is red/black and for the first time the cable is thicker indicating a more complex internal construction with more conductors. The plugs are again completely unique to this one cable – the KLEI PERFECTQ Harmony RCA plugs'. Not only do we get more detail but there's an undeniable solidity and scale that has me struggling for superlatives. Having had the luxury of being able to make a direct comparison with the previous flagship model in the KLEI GZSeries range – the KLEI zPURITY888 ICs – I can say that the QPURITY Infinity is in a completely different league. These ultimate ICs are so easy on the ear where the presentation is both spacious and relaxed in a way that is confounding when they can also deliver muscularity and impact when the music ramps up.



Connecting cables are a vital part of every audio system. These new cables and plugs from KL are very much a product of evolution. What is really important to understand is this evolution has been focused and intense. The accumulation of many refinements, improvements and serious science, combine to produce complete cables which are genuinely innovative. In short, you can listen to any model in the range and you'll find it far better than any existing cable you presently use.

We've always found that cables sound better with time but with the new QSeries models this effect is both much more obvious and extended. This is sometimes called 'Burnin' and the new QSeries models specify between 200 and 600 hours before performance peaks – the further you go up the range the longer the period becomes. There is also what is called 'Settling Time' – this is less at 2- 48 hours and relates to the action of either changing components or already run in cables.

It's not that the cables don't sound great from new but, if you have a completely new set, the sound will evolve and improve in every way during the burnin period where additional layers of detail are revealed, the tonal balance becomes richer, bass extends and treble sweetens. Until you hear this for yourself it can be difficult to understand.

Because the KLEI QSeries cables are so transparent this effect becomes much more obvious. The same applies to the settling time, as this is as much a case of the connected components coming on song and settling, as the cable warms up and also settles. You'll have a series of 'I never heard that before moments' and with the best cables I've found it's akin to a completely different (and better) version of albums you might think you know intimately but now listen to with a sense of wonder.

What's the next step? If a pair of ICs is your first experience of the world of KLEI cables, what should you look at next to make another improvement of the same magnitude? It may surprise you but we've found the KLEI AC/PC (mains) cables make as much, and in some cases even more of a positive difference, especially when connected to the amplifier.

There are also KLEI QSeries SPDIF/Coax, AES/EBU, USB digital cables which have the obvious advantage of being a single cable and do offer a similar level of quality improvement proportional to price when compared to a pair of analogue interconnects. The difference is perhaps a little more subtle than analogue which is why we'd always recommend you start there.

KLEI QSeries SCs are the icing on the proverbial cake. While the ICs come in a standard 1m length, the speaker cables are more often made to order as they don't come off the roll and are all terminated with bespoke plugs. The qualities of the various grades of speaker cable closely match the equivalent ICs but you should not be afraid to mix things up a little – there is a consistency of tone and presentation across the entire range. So, depending on the required length of the speaker cable, going a little further with interconnects and mains cables often makes the most sense.



Keith Louis Enterprises & Innovations (KLEI)
Phone: +61 (0) 406614044
Email: KLEInnovations@gmail.com
Skype: EichersKL
www.KLEInnovations.com

John Ransley, Totally Wired, New Zealand
NZ (Toll Free): 0800 909 101
Ph: +64 (0)3 4790 444 Mob: +64 (0)21963321
Email: info@totallywired.co.nz
www.totallywired.co.nz