Subject: Speaker wire quality
Posted by AudioAJ on Mon, 08 Mar 2010 19:53:19 GMT
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What's the difference between your average set of speaker wire you can get at some place like Radio Shack compared to Monster Cable? Is there enough of a difference to justify the price difference?

Subject: Re: Speaker wire quality
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 08 Mar 2010 21:58:03 GMT
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Some people get real excited about speaker wire. Myself, I am mostly looking at the conductor material and size. I prefer stranded cable too, which has some technical benefits at HF, but actually those benefits are mostly realized at frequencies above the audio band. Still it doesn't hurt. It's easier to work with too, as solid core wire isn't flexible. So it all boils down to size, in my opinion. A good pure-copper, low guage (large), stranded speaker cable is what I look for.

Subject: Re: Speaker wire quality
Posted by AudioFred on Mon, 08 Mar 2010 23:01:17 GMT
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I've compared Monster cable to zip cord and couldn't hear any difference. However, I do hear a difference between zip cord and Belden 5000 series cable, which is sold by Blue Jeans cable for a very reasonable price. The Belden provides much better resolution with a variety of speakers whose individual drivers cost anywhere from $13 to $220.
http://www.bluejeanscable.com/store/speaker/index.htm

Subject: Re: Speaker wire quality
Posted by colinhester on Thu, 11 Mar 2010 22:43:22 GMT
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Look at issue #16 of The Audio Critic. You will not find a better explanation of what a cable can do to your system....C

http://www.theaudiocritic.com/cwo/Back_Issues/

Subject: Re: Speaker wire quality

Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 11 Mar 2010 22:57:29 GMT
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Great article, thanks for posting the link!

That's definitely how I look at speaker wire.

As an aside, I must have forgotten that those PDFs were available online. Seems like I vaguely remember someone saying they were available, but I forgot. I bought all the back issues, but it's definitely handy to be able to post links to those articles.

Subject: Re: Speaker wire quality
Posted by McCormack on Sun, 14 Mar 2010 03:45:22 GMT
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To my ears solid core wire is far superior sounding to stranded. Give some 14 ga magnet wire a try for your speakers... it's not very expensive, so if you try it and don't like it you're not out very much.