

From the cable test article:

New cables

*MusicHome studio, March 2001
(Translation from Dutch)*



Van den Hul's new AC power cable (in the next issue this cable will also be discussed in a broader test field, [see extract below](#)) is named The Mainsstream Hybrid and is a supple but thick cable (15 mm.) made up of Silver coated Oxygen Free Copper (OFC) conductors and Linear Structured Carbon layers.

About AC power cables just as much fiction is written and recited as about other cables, so be cautious when frequencies are dealt with, which would or wouldn't enter your amplifier through these cables.

No, the functioning of power cables for the most part is based on two important principles. Such a cable should simply provide enough current and per definition it is an antenna which radiates all Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) mess from — or receives and leads it into — the amplifier.

Van den Hul posits that, due to a cable's series resistance and inductance, the current demand (the 'current surge') of an electronic device causes a voltage dip, as a result of which the buffer elcos of the concerned device get less well charged. The resulting 'ripple' voltage on the DC power supply increases and its spectral noise content will alter. This affects the residual noise floor's level and character, and of course has consequences for transparency, definition, focusing and so forth.

Inward radiation of RFI can be prevented by implementing the cable as a sort of filter for irradiation above say 1 megahertz. Normally spoken, high frequency irradiation is converted to frequencies within the audio band (*through intermodulation*) and these increase the system's perceptible noise floor.

My experience with power cables is generally better than with AC power line filters. Anyone who thinks to be able to prove otherwise just can send me those things.

During the last months I have equipped all my reference systems with as many Mainsstream cables as possible. Each time the experience was the same. Within the system arises an unmistakable clearly perceptible kind of 'beauty' in reproduction. Transparency, detail, quiescence, focusing and definition accordingly clearly increase. And that's not because these cables suddenly introduce such qualities. Those qualities already are part of a good audio system. RFI and other interference mask those features by introducing a higher noise floor. The Mainsstream lowers the noise floor and therefore those qualities show to better advantage.

Conclusion

The Van den Hul Mainsstream is a fine built AC power cable, that lowers the 'noise floor' in a convincing manner and clearly audible improves the performance of an audio system.

MusicHome studio, March 2001

From the cable test article:

Clews of AC power cables unravelled for you

*Original text by Jo Mullers
MusicHome studio, April/May 2001
(Translation from Dutch)*



Van den Hul Mainsstream Hybrid

This is a cable from one of the pioneers in the cable field with a world-wide reputation. When I was in China five years ago, the hi-fi shops had posters hanging showing Van den Hul cables as bait: they didn't have any on sale. But alright, let's talk about the cable itself. The Mainsstream Hybrid is a sturdy cable with silver coated Oxygen

Free Copper (OFC) as conductor material. Furthermore, Van den Hul stays loyal to his 'own' carbon which also is employed in this cable.

Van den Hul posits that an unimpeded flow of current ranks first with this design: an amplifier should never get into problems because the cable can't deliver. Whether he succeeded in that proves the listening test. Price NLG 449,- (1.5 meter length).

When I received the cables I knew nothing about the price and subsequently I made not one, but even two errors at the same time. Regarding its finish I valued this VDH considerably higher and also regarding listening. With this cable you namely at once make a considerable leap towards what AC power cables exactly are capable of. In first place the localization changes enormously: everything gets a firm steady place. The voice gets very clearly placed centre stage and the rest of the soundstage gets set up in a fine manner. Drive and dynamics are enormous. On all three test tracks (*) there is a clearly noticeable improvement in the musical reproduction.

* Mark Knopfler: Sailing to Philadelphia — Track 1: "What It Is"
Holly Cole: Temptation — Track 2: "Train Song"
Fleurine: CD and track not mentioned.

Experienced listeners fell for this cable as a single entity and sometimes it took a long time before they were back with both feet on the ground. A lot more money needs to be paid when seeking to surpass this cable, and then more subtle things as absolute timbre, fine dynamics, nuances in voice etc. are involved. But at first it is full enjoyment: the enthusiasm that this cable brings into a system is very catching.

Conclusion

A number of cables specially attracted my attention (in this test). In the first place that is the Van den Hul Mainsstream. This is such a delightful enthusiastic cable that it immediately drags even the largest sceptic across the line.

MusicHome studio, April/May 2001

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