



Reference Cables

“As close to a universal
reference as there is...”

Harry Pearson,
the absolute sound

VALHALLA

VALHALLA





“The Valhallas’ delivery
is utterly devoid of effort,
strain or artifice...

There’s no question:
there’s no mechanical
evidence of reproduction:
the music simply is.”

Roy Gregory
Hi-Fi Magazine

Hi-fi will never be the



The Goldmund Reference turntable, the Infinity IRS loudspeaker, the original Mark Levinson amplifiers...

The history of hi-fi is way-marked with iconic products, designs that have redefined the state of the art, that have changed our notion of what is possible. Nordost's Valhalla represents the first time something as apparently simple as a cable has achieved exalted such exalted status, totally rewriting accepted wisdom when it comes to the importance of wires. These are cables that look different and sound different because they are different: different by design and totally different when it comes to effect.

These differences are no accident. They are the result of our years of research and development, extending cable performance in mission critical aerospace and medical applications; fields where that performance is literally a matter of life or death; fields where there's no time or space for BS. Valhalla takes key patented and proprietary technologies and applies them to audio, thus producing a step change in system performance.

The more we've learnt about audio cables, the more obvious it has become that ultimate performance is subject to conflicting requirements. On the one hand, the ideal signal conductor would run through thin air, devoid of insulation: On the other, multiple conductors would be mechanically damped and precisely aligned with their neighbours. Like many ideals, that is impossible to achieve – but Valhalla gets incredibly close.

"I... strongly urge you to give them a listen. These are sensational cables, and you'll love what they'll do for your system. The Valhallas get my very highest, most unconditional recommendation."

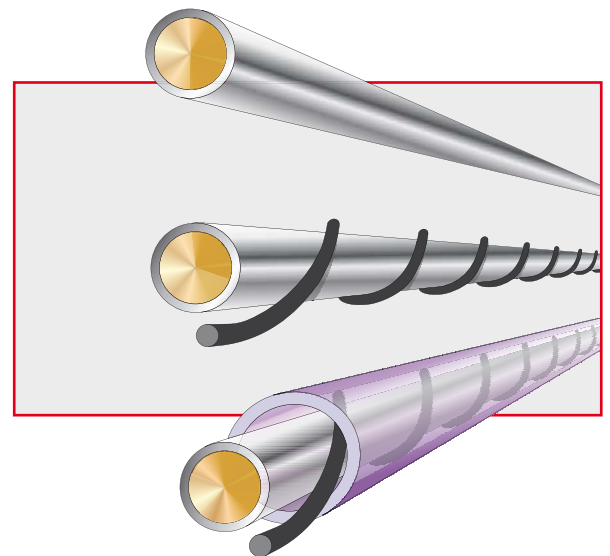
Brian Dinkroger, Stereophile

Each Valhalla conductor consists of an extremely pure, solid copper core, plated with 78 Microns of silver. Around this is wound a single, open spiral of micro mono-filament FEP that spaces the conductor from its outer insulation. This complex construction combines the very best available di-electric material in a virtual-air construction that achieves the holy grail of minimum contact and excellent mechanical damping.

But to make micro mono-filament technology work, you need Nordost's second proprietary technique; extruded FEP insulation. This takes the spiral wound conductors and encases them in a precisely spaced and dimensioned FEP tube.

We can even wrap them individually, so that a number of single tubes can be selected and twisted to create a functionally specific interconnect, or combine them in one of Nordost's trademark ribbon arrays. This process guarantees superior geometrical accuracy and consistency, key contributors to cable performance. Nobody else can do this, which is why no other cables look like Nordost, and no other cables sound as good as Nordost.

But our research never stops, which is why you'll find the first ever application of the even better dual micro mono-filament construction incorporated in the Valhalla digital and AC power cords. And we also know that there's more to cable performance than the best conductors in the world. Every single aspect of design



Same again...



“When we introduced the Valhalla cables to the system, it was as though we’d opened the floodgates of a dam, but instead of water, we realized music – unhindered and more of it. Every time we added another Valhalla interconnect for source components we attained a higher degree of fidelity. Thus our tuner never sounded better, the CD player offered information in line with some of the best analogue devices and the amp/preamp combination was nothing short of stunning. Now that the entire system is wired with Valhalla cables, we are hesitant to return them, for it is very difficult to readjust one’s cognitive faculties to subordinate standards. Thus we are here to warn you that long-term listening to Valhalla cables may become addictive...

As we see it, the Valhalla cables are not just essential components, but ought to be considered a vital link to what’s important – the music.”

Ernie Fisher, The Inner Ear Report

and construction matters – it’s not just what you do but how you do it that counts. So we use the best lightweight connectors, precision terminated in our US plant. And because all the cables in your system are a system in themselves, we provide purpose built solutions for each and every application; a continuous, coherent technological and material link from your AC outlet to your speaker binding posts. It was Valhalla that established this concept of the complete cable loom, tying together the critical functions of AC power distribution and signal transfer, creating a solid foundation for system performance. We’ve long known that cables have a critical impact on sonic performance; now we can understand why.

Valhalla has revolutionized the way we wire our systems, the way we listen and what we hear. Universally praised by reviewers around the world, it set a new standard against which all others have been measured – and found wanting. It is, truly, the first ever, high performance audio cable system. By combining superior materials, superior technology and superior execution, the end result in your system is clearly superior sound.

More Music Through Better Science!





Digital interconnect

Digital signals are subject to extremely precise transmission and termination standards and ensuring that your digital cables meet those standards is vital to achieving the best possible performance from high-resolution digital systems.

The Valhalla digital interconnect employs our most advanced dual micro mono-filament construction, to mechanically damp its highly polished, silver plated, solid copper conductors whilst also reducing dielectric contact by over 85%. In the 75 Ohm version a single conductor is used, while in the 110 Ohm version two conductors are bonded together. A double layer of silver shielding is then applied around them.

Like all our Valhalla cables, the Digital interconnects are hand built in our factory in the USA, and are available with 75 Ohm RCA or BNC connectors, or gold plated 110 Ohm XLR connectors. These are selected for their sonic properties and their impedance matching characteristics, ensuring that they have the minimum effect on the digital signal.



- **Insulation:** FEP
- **Construction:** Dual Micro Mono-Filament
- **Conductors:** 78 microns of extruded silver over a 99.999999% OFC solid-core
- **Capacitance:** 75 Ohm: 15.3pF/ft, 110 Ohm: 10.5pF/ft
- **Impedance:** 75 Ohm RCA/BNC, 110 Ohm AES/EBU
- **Propagation delay:** 88% speed of light

Analog interconnect

The Valhalla interconnect consists of 8 conductors made from solid, optimized diameter 99.999999% oxygen free copper, each plated with 78 microns of silver. That surface is highly polished before a precision micro mono-filament wrap is applied. A precision FEP tube is then extruded over each conductor. The eight FEP tubes are then bonded with a proprietary technique to create a tubular interconnect cable, enclosed in a dual layer of silver shielding. This design reduces dielectric contact by more than 80% yet offers extreme mechanical stability, despite the fact that the conductors are effectively suspended in inert air, preventing oxidation.

Valhalla interconnect is extremely fast, at over 87% the speed of light. When it comes to transmitting wide bandwidth signals with incredible speed and minimum phase shift this cable is effectively state of the art, bettered only by the mighty Odin. It delivers incredible transient response and dynamic resolution so that no musical detail is lost, allowing you to follow complex and difficult recordings with ease. Each Valhalla interconnect cable is hand built in the USA with WBT NextGen RCA phono plugs or gold XLR connectors.

- **Insulation:** High purity class 1 extruded FEP
- **Conductors:** 8 x 24 AWG solid core
- **Material:** 78 microns of extruded silver over 99.999999% OFC solid-core.
- **Capacitance:** 22.0pF/ft
- **Dielectric constant:** 1.38
- **Propagation Delay:** 87% speed of light
- **Dimensions:** 8mm (1/4") diameter

Tonearm cable

Just like digital signals, those from your tonearm have their own, precise electrical demands. The Valhalla tonearm cable is optimized specifically for the task of passing the smallest and most fragile signal in your system, the output of a typical moving-coil cartridge being around 10,000 times smaller than many CD players. With such tiny signal levels, the quality of the conductors, connectors and the termination itself are all critical to realizing the performance of a high-quality analogue replay system. The cable's position, right at the head of the signal chain makes it critical too, and ordinary interconnects an unacceptable compromise.

The Valhalla tonearm cable's conductors are created in the same silver plated, solid 99.999999% OFC copper as the other Valhalla cables, but ideally dimensioned and configured for their task.

The cable is available terminated to match any tonearm or phono-stage input, using Din-type, WBT NextGen RCA or gold plated XLR connectors. An integral earth wire is provided, while balanced terminations are available to special order, as are other configurations, as long as appropriate connectors can be sourced or supplied.

- **Insulation:** High purity class 1 extruded FEP
- **Conductors:** 4 x 2 24 AWG solid core
- **Material:** 78 microns of extruded silver over 99.999999% OFC solid-core.
- **Capacitance:** 22.0pF/ft
- **Dielectric constant:** 1.38
- **Propagation Delay:** 87% speed of light
- **Dimensions:** 8mm (1/4") diameter





Loudspeaker cable

Valhalla speaker cable consists of forty conductors divided into four groups of ten. Each conductor is made from optimized diameter, solid 99.999999% oxygen free copper that is plated with 78 microns of silver. The surface of each conductor is highly polished before a micro mono-filament wrap is applied, helically wound around each conductor before a precision FEP jacket is then extruded over the outside. A number of proprietary methods are used in this difficult and extremely precise manufacturing technique that reduces dielectric contact by a factor of more than 80%. Extremely mechanically stable, the conductors are effectively suspended in inert air, preventing oxidation.

Transmission speed of the Valhalla cable is extremely fast, at over 96% the speed of light. The cable has an effective dielectric constant of 1.12, which is incredibly low, the reference point being air or a vacuum, with a dielectric constant of 1. When it comes to transmitting wide bandwidth signals with minimum phase shift this cable effectively defines the state of the art. It delivers incredible transient response and dynamic resolution, preserving an incredible depth of musical detail and allowing one to follow complex and difficult recordings with ease.

Valhalla Reference speaker cable is terminated with low-mass Z plugs or spades. It is configured for bi-wiring as standard but may also be ordered in shotgun or bi-amp configurations.

- **Insulation:** High purity class 1 extruded FEP
- **Conductors:** 40 x optimized diameter in micro mono-filament construction
- **Material:** 78 microns of extruded silver over 99.999999% OFC solid core
- **Capacitance:** 11.8pF/ft
- **Inductance:** 9.6uH/ft
- **DC Resistance:** 2.6ohms/1000ft (304M)
- **Propagation delay:** 96% speed of light
- **Dimensions:** 55mm (2 1/8") wide and 1.0mm (0.039") thick

Power cord

Valhalla Power Cord sets the same benchmark standard in its category as the other Valhalla cables do in theirs. But thanks to the application of our latest dual micro mono-filament technology it enjoys an even bigger margin of performance over the competition.

The cable consists of 7 solid 16 AWG OFC conductors each suspended in a dual micro mono-filament matrix. The separate, silver coated solid core conductors eliminate strand interaction, hot spots and carbonization, which can occur in stranded cables, ensuring optimum performance. Unlike conventional power cables, which have propagation speeds of less than 50% the speed of light, Valhalla Reference power cord has a speed of 90 % the speed of light.

Extruded FEP insulation is superior to all other materials in that it has very low signal loss and high thermal efficiency, meaning that it dissipates heat very quickly. This allows greater power to be transferred more efficiently. The use of FEP in a micro mono-filament construction (with its very low dielectric constant and minimal insulation contact with the conductor) means that power is transferred extremely efficiently, while the low resistance of the cable keeps power loss extremely low. The result is truly superb sound quality.

- **Construction:** Precision dual micro mono-filament
- **Insulation:** FEP
- **Conductors:** 7 x 16 AWG
- **Material:** 70 microns of Silver extruded over 99.999999% OFC solid cores
- **Connectors:** Gold-plated IEC
Wall plugs: US/UK/EUR
- **Propagation delay:** 91% Speed of light
- **Power Rating:** 60Amp
- **Capacitance:** 8pF/ft
- **DC Resistance:** 1.3 Ohms per 1000ft/304M as terminated



Thor Power Distribution System

Thor is an elegant, full rack width, 6-way AC mains power distribution unit featuring sophisticated circuitry for dealing with AC mains noise and voltage spikes without limiting dynamic headroom. Patent pending Quantum QRT technology is employed to purify the AC waveform, a non-invasive circuit that affects neither source impedance nor peak current capability. Unlike many competing approaches, QRT produces readily measurable and clearly appreciable benefits in both the audio and video fields. If you can't believe what Thor does to the sense of flow and musical expression in your two-channel system, wait until you see what it does to picture quality!

- **Internally wired with dual micro mono-filament**
- **Number of outlets:** 6
- **Type of outlets:** US, European and UK unswitched audio grade sockets.
- **AC Mains inlet:** IEC fused
- **AC Mains voltage:** 100-260VAC
- **Surge Protection**
- **Total maximum current:** 18Amps
- **Dimensions:** 444mm (17.4ins) x 85mm (3.34ins) x 305mm (12 ins) (WxHxD)
- **Weight:** 6kg (13.2bs)



www.nordost.com
Made in the USA

“Once you’ve heard these cables you’ll realize that, regardless of budget, they are so cost effective that far from being an accessory or luxury afterthought, they should be the first name on the system team sheet.”

*Roy Gregory
Hi-Fi+ Magazine*

NORDOST

MAKING THE CONNECTION

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