

Reprinted from

## The High End Audio Journal of Hong Kong

*by Ying G. Cheng*

---

### TARA Labs The One Speaker Cable

"The High End Audio Journal of Hong Kong" published in its two recent issues evaluation reports on The One Interconnect and Speaker Cables from TARA Labs. The reports had excellent comments on the quality of the audio signal reproduction. Meanwhile, a bunch of flagship cables from different vendors emerged in the second-hand audio market in Hong Kong. It is apparent that consumers are "replacing" their cabling in record numbers. This may have been caused by the evaluation reports, but in fact, consumers have listened to it and made their decision. When I tried to summarize 'The One' Interconnect in the last issue, I was already predicting that 'The One' speaker cable is also another product with unmatched performance and quality. The reason for my concern was: if TARA Labs' The One Interconnect and Speaker Cables beat out their competitors in the market, then the company will dominate the market. This has never happened in the 20-year history of the growing cabling market. As a broadcasting media for the audio system, we hope that the entire audio industry grows in every sector. However, if a product from a company can dominate the market, we would have to report it accordingly. So now to the review!

The One Speaker Cable is a masterpiece of Matthew Bond, the owner and designer from TARA Labs. The design is for pure signal transmission through proper arrangement of the conductors and the ISM method of floating the cable shield. This has been discussed by chief writer Yang in the previous issue. As a senior audio lover, I have spent a lot a money on wiring. There is no doubt that "one wire can be critical" in trying to match the entire audio system. Any audio lover should not ignore the importance of wiring. However, I am sure that the majority of the audio fans would agree that the audio sound is not always significantly altered using different cables in the system. It takes a higher distinguishing capability to perceive the difference in audio sounds using different cables. It is not like when you change to a bigger speaker system and then you realize the obvious difference in bass. So, before I listened to 'The One' Speaker Cables, I had this question in my mind: is it like 'The One' Interconnect which

makes a big difference after replacing it in your system, or do I have to listen to it repeatedly before I can tell the difference?

Before this, I have been using Audioquest and Transparent Audio top-of-the-line speaker cables in our audio test room. As for these companies, together with MIT, NBS and XLO, I have never been very impressed with their products at all. In my experience, every flagship speaker cable from each vendor has its own sonic qualities; and the usual high price is a secondary factor. If the speaker cable you like in your system happens to be very expensive, then that's the way it is. Yes, 'The One' Speaker Cable is expensive, and I can ignore that if 'The One' Speaker Cable is comparable to other cables (each having its own sonic qualities).

However, the audio sound using 'The One' speaker wire turned out to be more than expected - the tone was smooth, dynamic and lifelike - surpassing the sound of the every other speaker cable. In the beginning, I tried to place it in between McIntosh MC-275 and Cello Elves. As a result, the sonic field was much clearer and more dynamic. On the other hand, when I replaced 'The One' speaker cable with the other speaker cable, the sound became fuzzy, less clear and dynamic. In the past, the following phenomenon often happens: wire A is better than wire B in one system, however, after changing the speaker or the output amplifier, the audio performance is changed. Therefore, in the comparison, I used two additional pairs of speakers (KEF LS 3/5A AND Tannoy Churchill) as well as two other output amplifiers (Jadis JA-500 and Audio Synthesis Desire). The result was the same: TARA Labs 'The One' Speaker Cable clearly outperforms its competitors. In my more than 10 years of experience on writing hi-fi articles, this is the first time that I have seen a pair of speaker cables which outperforms its competitors' speaker cables so completely. In addition, I have had the following experience only once in my lifetime with any cable: 'The One' Interconnect improves the performance of the entire audio system.

'The One' speaker cable from TARA Labs is a speaker cable with the most significant breakthroughs in the history of cabling design. I would like all audio fans to have a chance to listen to it and see how the audio performance is enhanced. It is unfortunate that 'The One' is highly priced. However, if a high-end preamplifier can be sold around 10,000 US dollars, or a high-end output amplifier can be sold for around 20,000 US dollars, then, the price for 'The One' Speaker Cable would still be considered as reasonable.