



# CLEARLINK USB CABLES

## OWNER'S MANUAL

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### IMPORTANT USER INFORMATION

- 1. DO NOT REMOVE RED COLOR BAND ON THESE CABLES. (This applies only to the Male A to Male A version).** Removing this marking voids our moneyback guarantee and any warranty for this product. The Clearlink cables are highly directional, so it is very important to keep track of which end is which.
- 2. DO NOT USE ANY BREAK-IN DEVICES OF ANY KIND ON OUR WIRES!** Use only music to break in our wires. "Cable Cookers" and other types of break-in devices will seriously degrade the sound quality of our cable, thus using this type of device will void our moneyback guarantee and warranty for this product.
- 3. DO NOT WALK ON THESE CABLES OR EXPOSE THEM TO SHARP METAL CORNERS.** Scuffing of shoes and other types of abrasion may wear through our insulation. This sort of damage is irreparable and could risk shorting your amplifier.

### PERFORMANCE AND DESIGN

If you are transmitting USB music data streams from a computer, server or media player to a USB DAC or a USB amplifier, the choice of USB interconnect will strongly affect your system's sound—even if the data stream is asynchronously transferred. The most advanced technology USB DACs or amps cannot reach their full performance with conventionally designed USB cables, no matter how exotic or expensive their materials. Today's high end USB wires all have insulation that's too massive (thereby increasing dielectric absorption), copper (or, even worse-sounding, silver) conductors that are too thick (thereby exacerbating skin-effect-caused time smear), and signal plus noisy power conductors that are much too closely bundled (thereby increasing distortion-inducing field interactions between adjacent wires).

We undertook a series of listening tests and design variations to correct these deficiencies of existing USB cables. Our final Clearlink configuration uses really thin conductors of pure copper insulated with an equally thin, ear-tested polymer layer. These conductors are unbundled, spaced apart and only loosely constrained inside a minimum dielectric mass, large diameter, open mesh tube woven with the thinnest possible polymer filaments. Compared to the most expensive USB cables on the market, our Clearlink delivers a major step forward in musical transparency and dynamic excitement. Treble is more extended and at the same time more relaxing. Bass gains crisp attacks, clearer pitch and better articulated timbres. The midrange gains warmth and lots more harmonic detail. We guarantee those gains against any top of the line cable available today—and that includes cables costing as much as \$3600.

## INSTALLATION TIPS

1. When plugging or unplugging the Clearlink, always grasp the flat portion of the plug. Never pull the plug by grasping the sheathed wires or the heat-shrink-covered wire bundle at the back of the plug itself. Due to our deliberate choice of very thin conductors for best sound, the conductor terminations at the plug will not withstand tension forces of more than two pounds.
2. When installing or uninstalling the Clearlink, be careful not to snag the open mesh sheathing on exposed edges, corners or screw heads. To minimize insulation mass and dielectric absorption, the mesh was selected to have the thinnest practical filament diameter and the most open possible weave, thus making it vulnerable to catching and tearing on sharp protrusions.
3. Whenever arranging wire runs, whether Clearlink or other, try to avoid any wires from running parallel to each other for more than a few inches unless they are at least 6" apart. Wires that are parallel and close will suffer crosstalk and field interference, to the detriment of good sound. Non-parallel wires that cross at angles of about 45 degrees or more can actually touch without audible degradation.
4. All Clearlink cables will improve with continued playing. Standard Clearlinks will not reach peak performance until at least 25 to 50 hours; Clearlink Plus wires will keep on improving for 100 to 200 hours of break-in.