



ULTRATHIN RIBBON AND EXCALIBUR RIBBON INTERCONNECT OWNER'S MANUAL

PERFORMANCE AND DESIGN

The Clearview Ultrathin Ribbon and Excalibur Ribbon Interconnects are some of the fastest, most transparent, most detailed and least colored interconnects available at any price. These new Ribbons beat our old Ultrathins—and the old ones already smoked interconnects costing up to \$1500, including Nordost, Audioquest, Acoustic Zen, DH Labs, Goertz, Audio Note, Kimber, MIT, Cardas, Transparent, Harmonic Technology, Straightwire, TARA, XLO, and Synergistic.

The basic design principles that make the Ribbons sound so unsmearred and revealing are:

- Our conductor is high purity, proprietary metallurgy, and copper ribbon—much thinner than any existing cable (including competing flat-wire designs).
- The insulation is a handmade, super-thin polymer sheath for lowest dielectric absorption. The polymer is a major upgrade from the old Ultrathins.
- Each interconnect is given three separate chemical and electromagnetic treatments.

The best-sounding, lowest skin effect RCA connectors available in high-end audio, manufactured by us and significantly better sounding than Cardas or WBT or Eichmann.

The Excalibur Ribbons are a large sonic step up from the Ultrathin Ribbon, and startlingly better than the old Double Helix. The Excalibur's feature:

- A higher grade copper metallurgy with a new, proprietary rolling and annealing procedure.
- Half the ribbon thickness of the Ultrathin.
- Monomolecular silver interface at the ribbon termination.
- Solderless connections.

INSTALLATION TIPS

DO NOT USE ANY BREAK-IN DEVICES OF ANY KIND ON OUR WIRES!

They will seriously degrade the sound. Use only music to break in our wires.

CAUTION: you can bend the interconnect as much as you wish, but **DO NOT PULL ON IT** with more than a one or two pound force. **NEVER** pull the plug out by yanking on the sleeve.

Mapleshade

1. Install the interconnects with the double color band plugs (or plugs marked “source”) toward the music source, provided the source component’s output is in correct absolute phase. If the source component puts out an inverted phase signal, then you need to reverse the interconnect. If not, you will suffer degraded sonic performance.
2. Firmly grasping only the brass barrel of our RCA plugs, gently plug them in with minimal twisting. Never pull on the ribbon or wire portion of the interconnect.
3. Keep the interconnects away from AC wires, and never running alongside the AC wires. If they need to cross AC wires, have them cross at right angles (approximately). Keep the interconnects away from any plastic; in particular, keep them at least 4 inches away from artificial fiber rugs and plastic wall moldings.
4. Install the interconnects in such a way that the sleeves lay flat and are not twisted. Then take the two sleeves that make up each channel and separate them as far apart (over their entire length) as possible. We normally keep the two sleeves apart by fastening them to stands or walls with thread or with 1/2-inch polypropylene tape that you can order from us.
5. A further small improvement can be made by “fluffing” the sleeves so they do not lay flat against the whole length of the wire inside the sleeve. You can do this by blowing into one of the RCA plugs. The sleeve will puff up, then partially collapse. The idea here is to keep as much air as possible between the sleeve and the signal wire inside it.

MAJOR SONIC UPGRADE:

NEW RCA PLUGS

Your new interconnects embody the latest Mapleshade/InSound advance—a radically minimalist new RCA plug, of our own design. New design features include: A special brass alloy, absence of plating for best sound, ultra thin-wall shell and center pin (to minimize skin effect), maximally smooth contours (to eliminate field concentrations at corners) and an all-new, never before used dielectric.

In our very first tests, this new plug amazed us! It represents a much larger advance than we expected over our previous proprietary design. In particular, the improvement in bass power and definition was startling. And it represents an even larger advance over the most expensive and highly touted of today’s audiophile RCAs, including WBT, Cardas, and Eichmann.

A cosmetic note: Many of the center pins look off center. This is functionally irrelevant; each and every plug has been tested for both fit and contact resistance in our quality control test fixture.