

Soundstring Cable Technologies complete set cables review



An elaborated and comparing Soundstring Cable Technologies cables review...

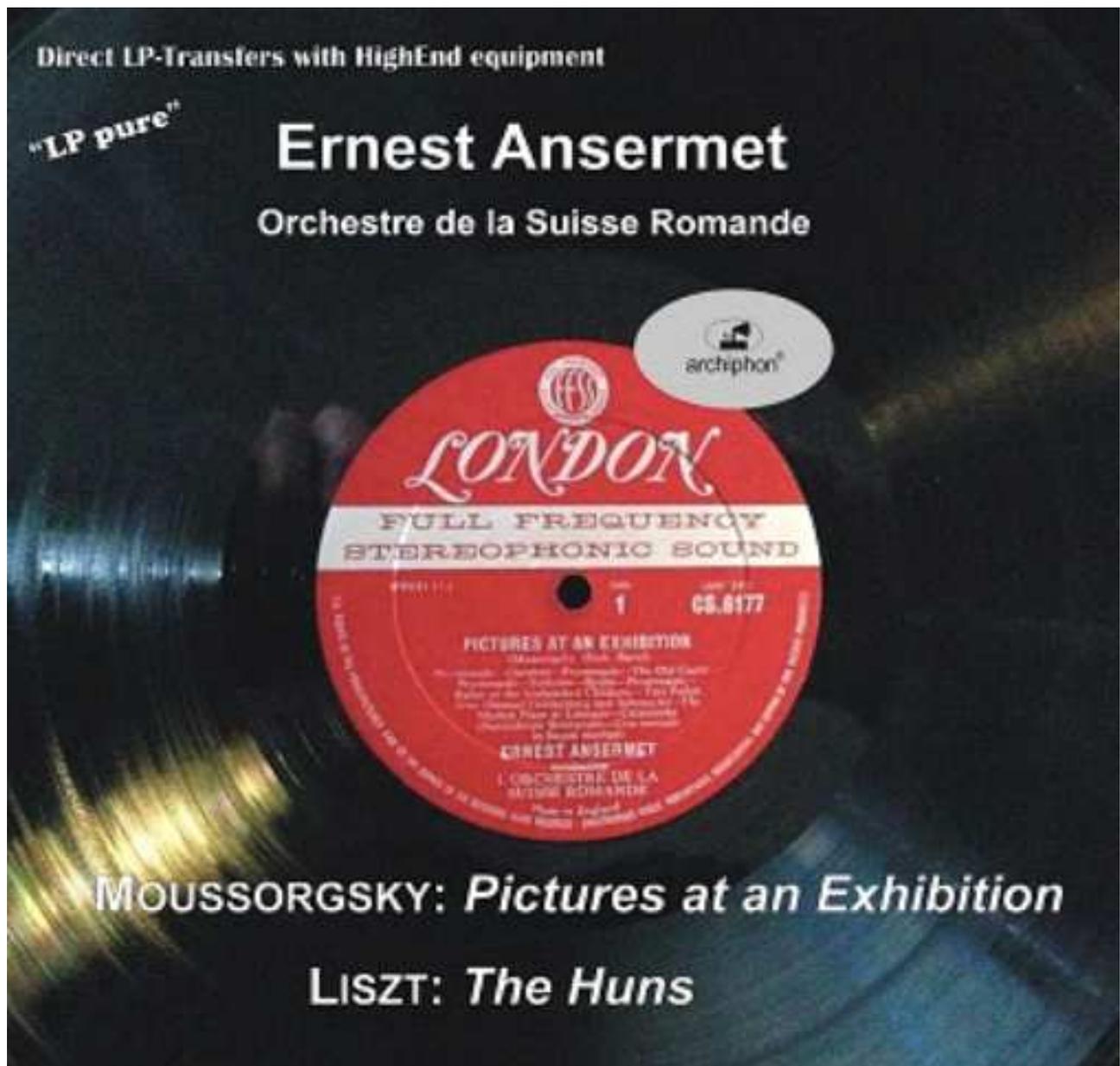
Mono and Stereo received the all new Soundstring Cable Technologies GEN II “SE” cables together with the former top model GEN II cables for a review. The goal of this review was to conduct a long and extended elaborated review and conclude how a customer will benefit with new GEN II models over the past ones.

FIRST THING

The colour for both types of the new GEN II cables is silver grey. The single ended interconnect cables have 24 Kt. Gold plated RCA plugs that are fitted with Coca-bola wood on the ends. They look very stylish and the new colour is more eye catching. The cables seem very well damped, as when you knock on them, the hit is quickly absorbed.

Mono & Stereo received the shielded versions of the GEN II cables. Both the standard and “SE” types were put through a very extended test with several different components under the scope with a goal of seeing where they fit the best. After some weeks of burn in time they seemed to settle down and were ready for serious listening. I'll try to show the differences by listening to the same album with both cables, then comparing them...

First up is Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition - Liszt: Hunnenschlacht, S. 105



Standard GEN II unshielded version:

The intro of this album was presented with a very large and coherent soundstage, sound was again very powerful and with a good tonal balance. The dynamics in track 2 was bone shaking and quite realistic. Music had tons of space between the musicians. One could easily tell the different places that the music came from. When the orchestra went up in loudness and strength the cable just followed. What impressed me the most was the way it made the music sound very natural and unrestricted. It was not 100% neutral, but it didn't colour the music. It was a tad warm in the top but without hiding anything!

GEN II “SE” shielded version:

The same tracks were presented with very similar character, but with a lower noise floor. Though it felt like the dynamics were not quite as dramatic. Yet still pretty darn powerful.... The bass seemed to dig deeper and had a bit more heft and fullness. Top end was more extended and was a bit warmer. Midrange had the same dynamics as the standard version, but with more space and detail in the music.

Next up Hans Theessink - Sympathy for the Devil and Walking the dog



Standard GEN II unshielded version :

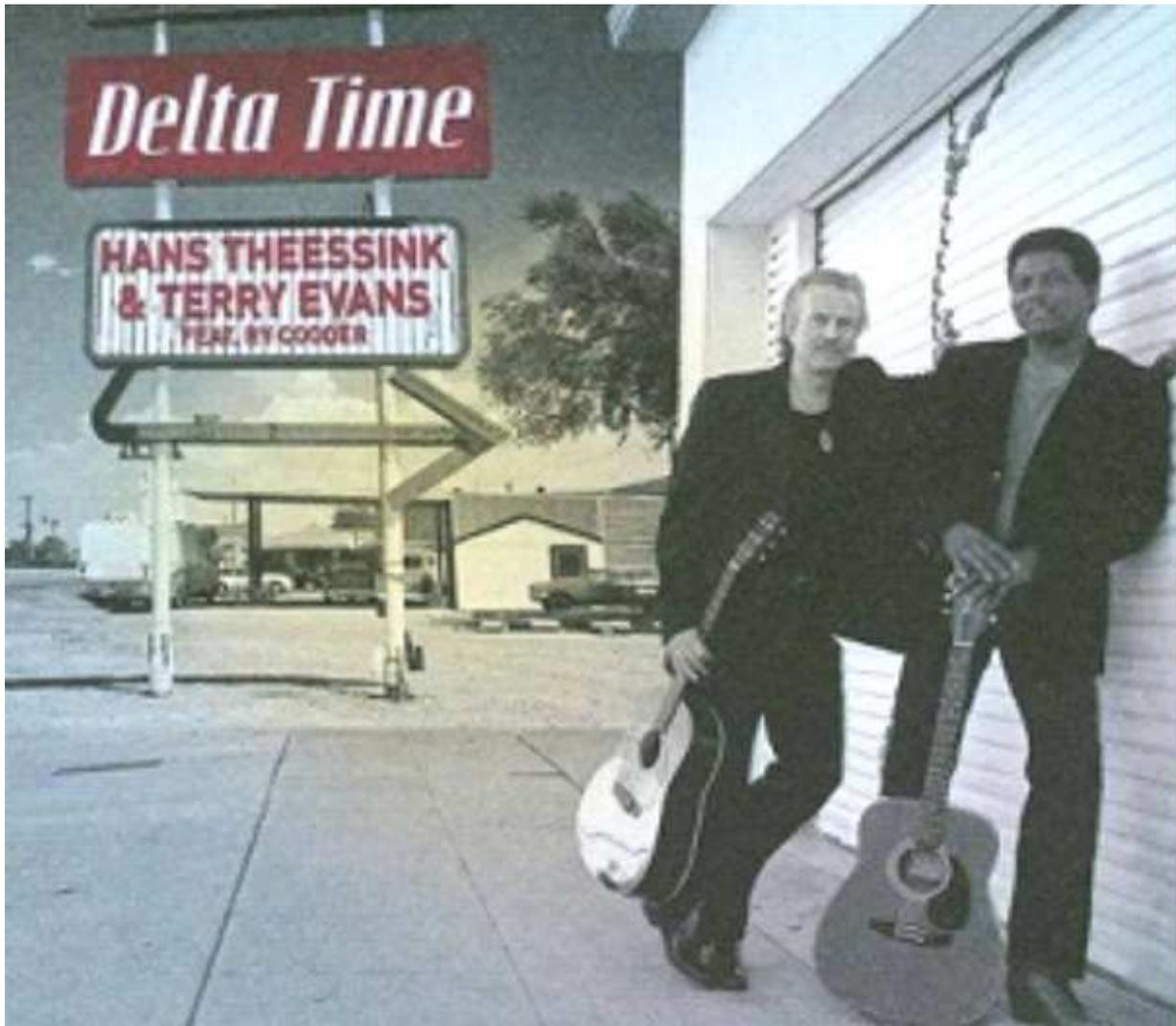
Starting with some foot stamping guitar the standard version had a crisp and airy presentation. The studio recording sounded so alive. Theessink's guitar was tuneful and transparent. Micro details in the strings came alive and it was a joy to listen to. The background musicians were very well parted and there was natural balance in the

soundstage. The window of presenting the music was clear and natural. Bass notes went right in the chest, filling my room with very articulated notes. Dry, fast and detailed.

GEN II “SE” shielded version :

Again it was quite noticeable that the noise floor was more quiet. That meant one had a better feeling of being more involved in the music. Soundstage was a bit deeper and wider. That too just enhanced my feeling of being there... I really was enjoying this presentation. So much so, I forgot to take notes! One of the things I noticed was it had a bit more grip on things and was somewhat more extended in the soundstage.

BONUS TRACK : HANS THEESSINK & TERRY EVANS - DELTA TIME.



In this particular track I actually preferred the standard GEN II version. It made the music come a bit closer to me. I tried the track several times and even included some friends and my wife to join in and they responded the same. The standard version made this track come more alive for some weird reason I cannot explain....

Brian Bromberg Time with the cold duck track.



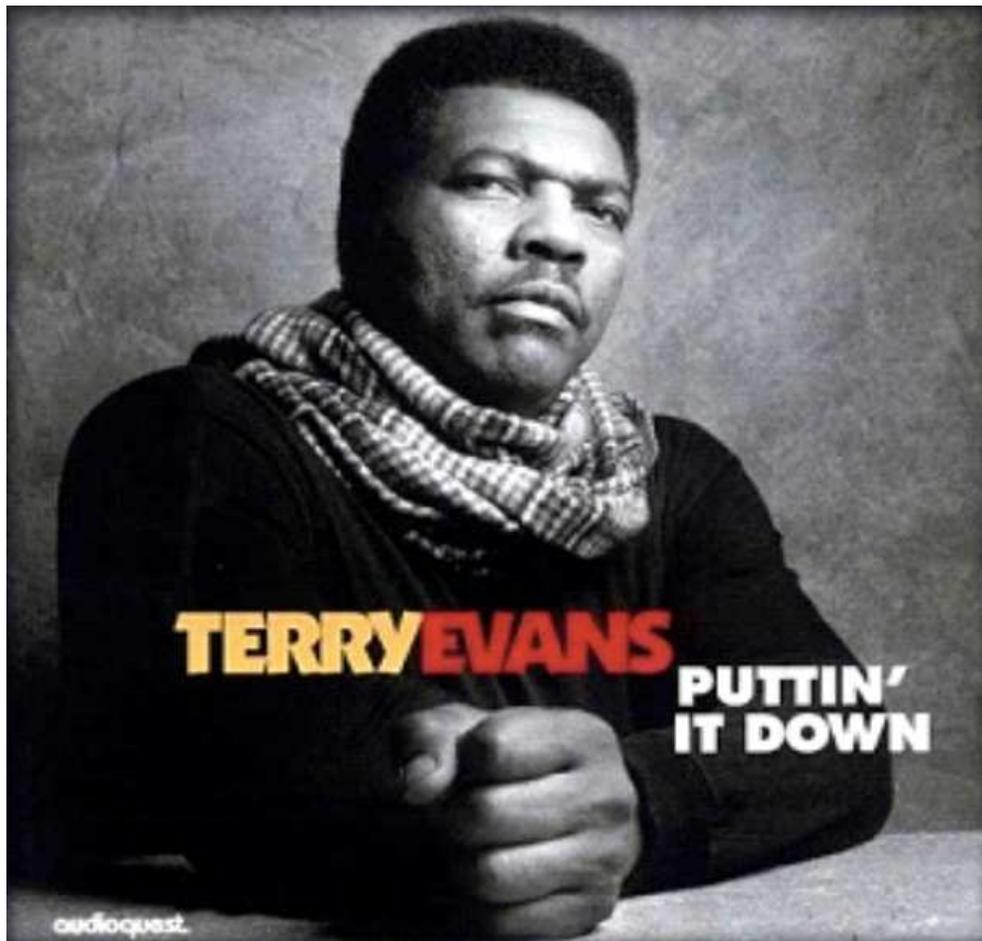
Standard GEN II unshielded version :

The start of this track is very fast and dynamic and every musician is playing full throttle. I had no problem whatsoever distinguishing every musician with ease while listening. Brian comes in early in the track with a 45 second bass solo. His upright bass just sounded very realistic. Crisp and fast notes were flowing through with no glare of any kind. There were tons of detail in the bass despite the drummer going a bit crazy in the background with his playing. This is not a live album, but my wife was screaming from the kitchen "are you having a live concert in there? " No dear, I'm just listening to some good music, but darn she was onto something because it really sounded live. Whats not to like? I wish i could share the sound I was getting here...

GEN II “SE” shielded version :

The track was more extended and controlled. The feeling of space between the musicians was greater and the bass notes had more focus. It seemed like it was a bit faster in the dynamic contrast. That gave the music better flow and heft. Rising from quiet to loud passages was prompt. The brass was more airy and had more body through out. The brass players were more parted from each other and soundstage had more three dimensionality and the impact of cymbals and drums was a tad more full. It's a track with a lot going on and I've heard many other cables being muddy and presenting the whole music as an unclear source. Despite the massive amount of information the Soundstring cables did not collapse in any way. Thats a big thumbs up!

Terry Evans Ry Cooder - Too Many Ups And Downs - Puttin' It Down

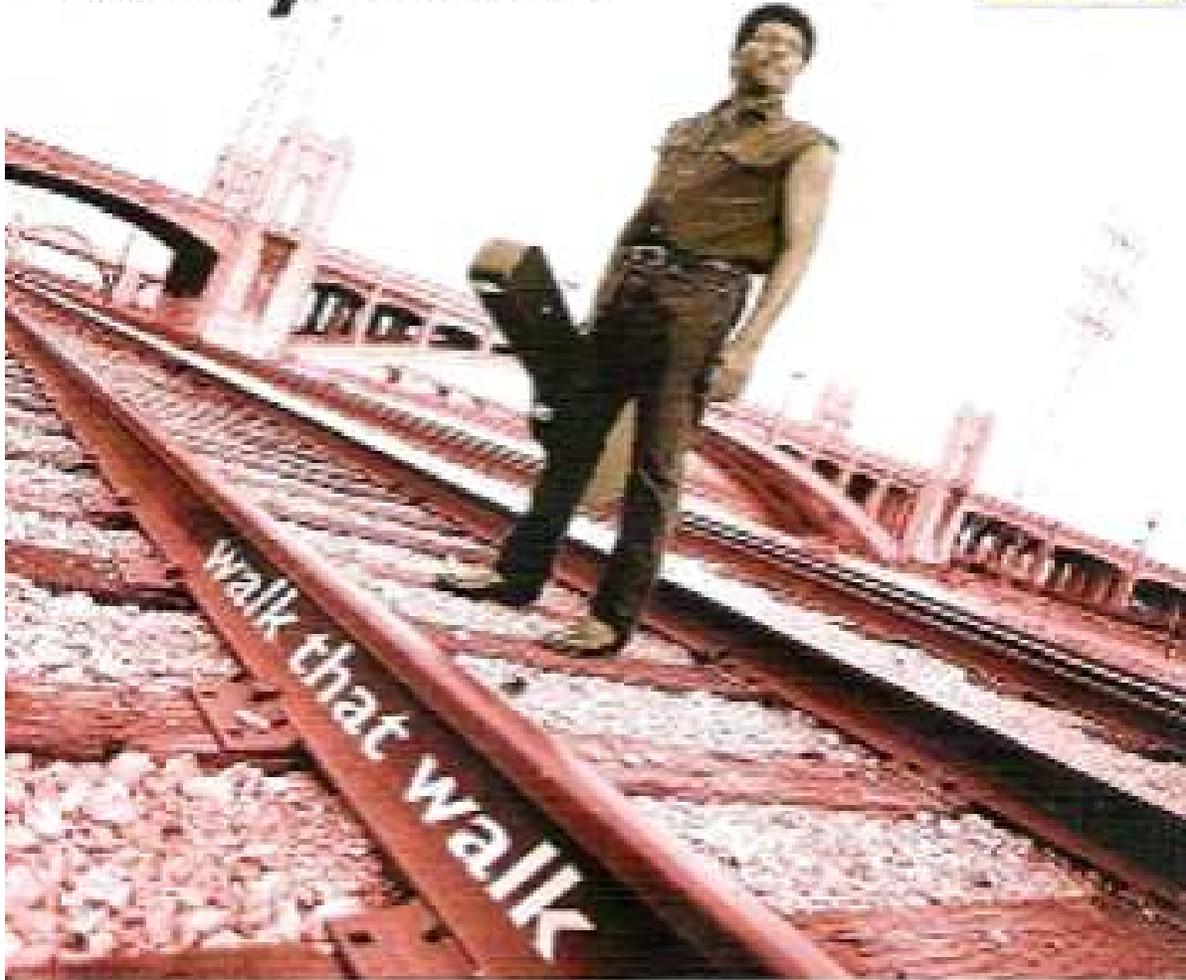


Standard GEN II unshielded version :

Starting off soft, the track was presented in very smooth and delightful way. Terry's voice was full of hearth and at times it was very dynamic. The drummer was sitting a bit back compared to Terry as one would normally do. Snare drum was very easy and flowing in the back, but it wasn't held back when he hit the drums with more power. That just showed that the cable was handling the dynamic contrast very well. This is one of those things I appreciate alot because without dynamic contrast, the music becomes flat and dull.

Terry Evans - Dancin' With Your Belly Up.

terry evans



An awesome track that starts out very snappy and had my foot dancing away while listening. The boogie factor is high. These cables could boogie the hell out of me. Music was so easy to enjoy throughout these cables. The midrange was prompt and very transparent, the top end had a bit of warmth to it, but nothing that would put a damper on the music. It was still very extended, resolving and involving. The depth was on par with some of the much more expensive cables I had in the house. Bass notes came out with so much clarity that it is very hard to believe how these cables do not cost more.

GEN II "SE" shielded version :

Tonally, it was more or less the same but there was a bit darker background which helped me to get a better sense of the music being played. Though I felt that the "SE" cable was not as fast in the response as the standard version, the difference was only a minor one. Yet it had a stronger and more potent soundstage with better fullness of happening and size

Martin Fröst - Mozart Wolfgang Amadeus



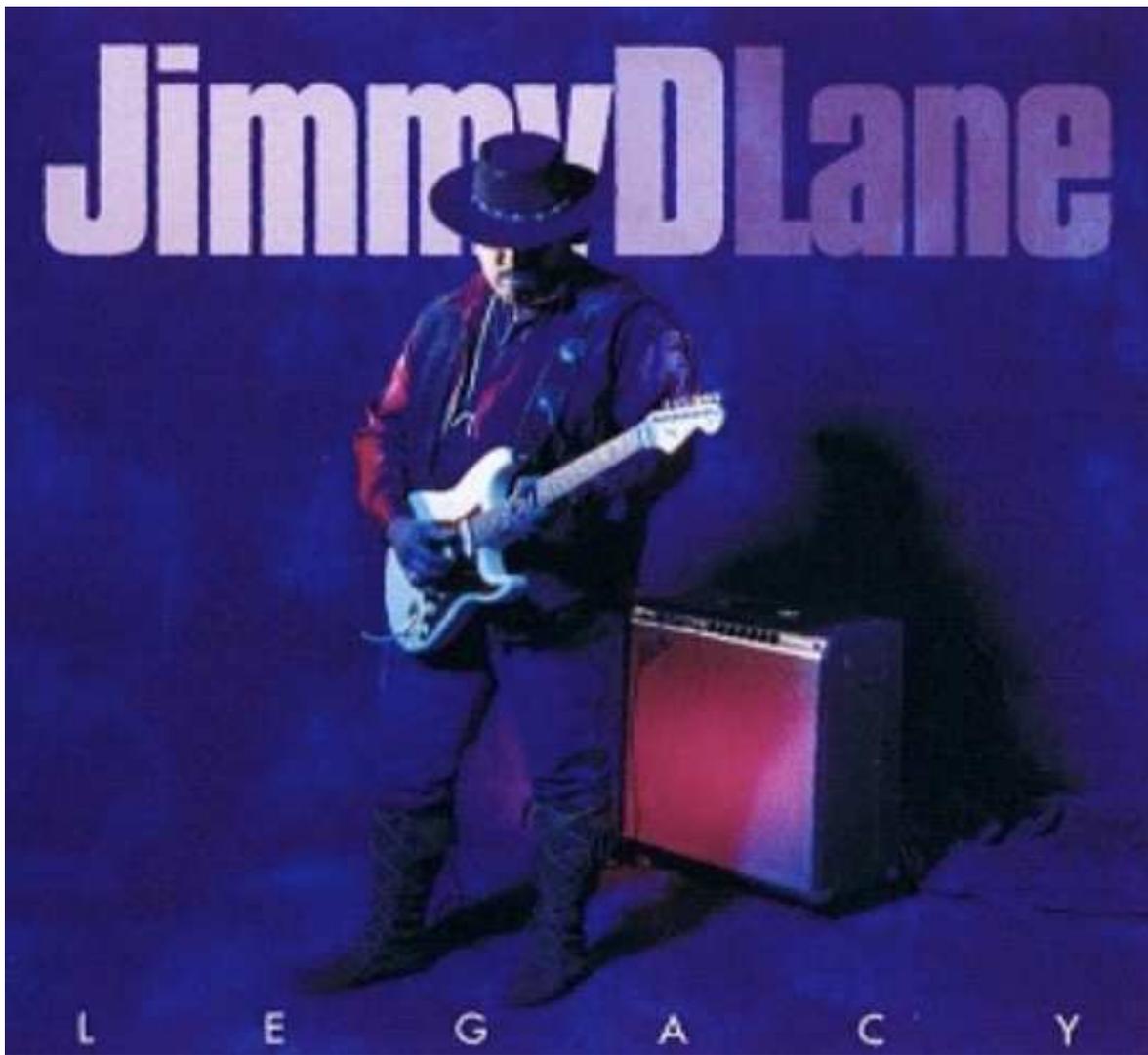
Standard GEN II unshielded version :

Allegro started with such a beautiful sound. The Soundstage was breathtaking. Martin's clarinet was very dramatic and stunning. The dynamics in this track takes one through a journey from the silent presentation to the very powerful and dramatic orchestral impact. The violins were placed very solid in the mid back of the soundstage, while Martin almost rapes his clarinet, the violins sit back most of the time. Yet, when demanded they responded very promptly. Martin is one of the best clarinet players in the world. And with the Soundstring cables throughout the system, his performance was enhanced further to the listener's joy.

GEN II “SE” shielded version :

Allegro was even fuller and the clarinet was even more involving. Details had more finesse. The sidewall and rear wall in the recording moved a bit further away giving more room for the music to expand. It's like the special non-metallic RFI shielding provides more detail in the soundstage and the tonal balance was a bit more neutral too. Background was pit black and you can hear every detail in the album regarding how complex the music gets. It seems like the “SE” version has more headroom and more complexity. I even noticed the presence of more musicians. Cellos were more distinct and had more vivid character. The bows on the violins were clearer and more dynamic in their presentation.

Jimmy D. Lane - Legacy



Standard GEN II unshielded version :

The Track "In This Bed " is what blues is all about. Love, sorrow and troubles. One of my favorite blues musicians. Such a good performer. I listened to it late at night after a

long day and was blown away with how the Soundstring cable system was giving me that awesome feeling of having a live concert in my living room. His voice was full, crisp and clear. Drummer attacks were dynamic all the way down and with all the details. Cable wise, the contrast between the keyboard and drummer was among the best I've heard in this system. When Jimmy's solo kicked in, the other musicians toned down a few db to get his solo more out there. Every little detail was presented with ease and headroom. When things got loud, they got **LOUD**, just as the music should!

GEN II "SE" shielded version :

Had more attack in the center and the midrange. Top was more controlled and sounded more extended. Cymbals had a more natural flow and rang out more life like. Detailing in the soundstage was more realistic. Wider and more impactfull. It was easier to follow the different notes. His guitar amp nose stood out more, keyboard was more vivid and bass notes had more personality and stood out more for the listener to enjoy.



I've tried tons of different set ups with the Soundstring cables. Their GEN II speaker cables stood out the most. Almost everything I've compared them with was an easy match. They were very close in performance and in some cases even better, despite the other cables being far more expensive. Not just a little but 3-4-5 times more expensive! That's quite insane and shows how well the Soundstring cables performed with everything I tried them with. Going through the four/five different setups in my 6 months of testing the Soundstring cables were such a joy to review. Despite the differences between standard GEN II's and the GEN II "SE" with the RFI shield, I cannot clearly say how one is better than the other. Clearly, in most aspects the RFI shielded version was sounding more real to my ears. Yet, they do also cost a bit more. Still, they are one heck of a good buy even with being a bit more expensive. Quite the opposite. You wont believe it until you hear them and how well they actually perform! They're actually stunning!



My suggestion for using GEN II power cords is as follows

The standard GEN II version is sublime for source components with hefty power supplies. Also with amplifiers with solid state power supplies. Hence in the GEN II standard vs the GEN II “SE” with the RFI shield, it was noticeable that the RFI shielded version worked the best with the components that had the very large power supply amplifiers with small capacity etc. Not that I wouldn't work with properly made power cords. For some weird reason, I cant really figure out why...



One should also notice that the standard GEN II cables need to be used in setups where there is an order to the cable runs. And if you can definitely say “yes” that your in for some serious good cable panache that won't ruin your budget. Furthermore the build quality is so solid it seems like it could last a lifetime.



The speaker cables are very easy to work with too They can be bent without any kind of strain. This makes them easy to use in places where room is restricted. More companies could learn something from the Soundstring dedicated design they use. It's never a joy to work with stiff cables, especially if you're in a room restricted environment. Here, the Soundstring cables are sublime. Soundstring's cables performed on par with some of the best cables I have in my house. Comparing them in overall value - **NOTHING** beats them!

To sum it all up here is my conclusion:

Soundstring Cable Technologies standard GEN II and the GEN II "SE" (Special Edition) with the non-metallic RFI shield performed flawlessly in every way I tried them. No matter the setup and system, their performance struck me as something very unique. When one compares them in value, they did, and I mean **DID**, knock the socks off every cable I've tried for many many years. I could EASILY live with the Soundstring cables for the rest of my days. They are that good! They do not have the final word in resolution when comparing them to just a very few of the most expensive brands. BUT, It is a very minor difference. And if you don't have the right acoustics in your room, you surely won't notice it at all!



The Soundstring Cable Technologies cables are very highly recommend components and if there was an award to give for “cables of the year,” the Soundstring Cable Technologies GEN II and GEN II “SE” cables would be getting one with out a doubt!

Kenneth Jensen, Senior editor at Mono & Stereo.

The system list the cables were used are as followed:

AMP :

Audio Note M6 phono pre amplifier.

Acoustic Plan Sitar MK II int hybrid ampflifier with phono stage.

Audioheaven 300 watts hybrid mono blocks.

EAR 509 II mono blocks.

YBA IA350 int amplifier

YBA passion 650 stereo amplifier.

Ars Sonum EL34 SE int amplifier.

SOURCE :

VPI scoutmaster II turntable
Heybrook TTII modified turntable.
Takeda San the general cartridge
Miltek siltek cartridge.
AudioTechnica OC9MKIISE cartridge.
Audio Note DAC 3.1XII Signature
Audioheaven DAC ONE.
Bel Canto DAC 3 SE.
Wadia CD 381i

Speakers :

Verity Audio Fidelio Enocre.
Gamut EL superior S5SE
Xavian Vituoso.
LOKA Audio reference one.
Sonics Allegro IIS.

Cables :

Soundstring GEN II (shielded and unshielded)
MIT AVT MA
MIT Magnum MA
Audioheaven Silver ONE
Cardas Clear
Art Audio.
Bertram Audio Proxima II silver.
Audio Note Spe and LX.

<http://www.soundstringcable.com>

Manufacturer's comment:

Dear Matej,

Thank you for the new review just published in ***monoandstereo.com*** for the Soundstring Cable GEN II and GEN II "SE" (Special Edition) cables written by Kenneth Jensen, Senior Editor. We appreciate his very positive review and enthusiastic endorsement of our cables. His closing comment that they are "very highly recommend components and if there was an award to give for "cables of the year," the Soundstring Cable Technologies GEN II and GEN II "SE" cables would be getting one without a doubt!

In reading the review several times, I found that Kenneth's continued reference to the interconnect cables as being unshielded (GEN II) and shielded (GEN II "SE") may be a bit misleading to your readers. I would like to clarify that issue to insure that there are no misunderstandings. Kenneth was given two complete sets of GEN II type cables for his review. One was the standard GEN II cables that had high out-put power supply cords, bi-wired speaker cables and shielded and single ended interconnect cables with our patented "low mass" RCA plugs. The second set of cables were the newer GEN II "SE" (Special Edition) cables. They also consisted of high out-put power supply cords,

bi-wire speaker cables and shielded and single ended interconnect cables with our RCA plugs. We were not asked to supply any unshielded interconnect cables for the review and none of our power supply cords or speaker cables are made with any type of metallic shield either. Contrary to what many cable companies say, shielded power cords and speaker cables are not necessary or recommended in our opinion, especially if the designs and constructions of those cables are properly done! The proof is in the unqualified endorsement of the performance of our cables by Kenneth and other reviewers that have given similar high praise to our cables.

Based upon the way that Kenneth described and wrote about the interconnect cables, I am concerned that it may give your readers the impression that the standard GEN II cables are unshielded and the GEN II "SE" cables are shielded. This is not correct. The GEN II and GEN II "SE" interconnects we were asked to supply for the review both have a 98% spiral shield made of 99.9999% pure oxygen free high conductivity electrolytic bare copper. In addition, ALL of the GEN II "SE" cables have a very special proprietary non-metallic 98% braided shield that acts as a barrier against any type of RF interference. This non-metallic shield is light weight and very flexible. It adds some extra cost to the GEN II "SE" cable constructions, but the cost is far less than adding an extra metallic type shield! The GEN II and GEN II "SE" interconnect cables are also sold in "unshielded" versions (no copper shield). With the unshielded type, the "SE" interconnects still have the non-metallic RFI braid shield, as do ALL of the GEN II "SE" cables.

The enhanced overall performance of the GEN II "SE" cables is also due to changes we made in the construction of the individual copper conductors in each cable type. By using thinner strands of copper, we were able to add more individual strands to each conductor. In doing so, we increased the overall surface area of the signal carrying cables and the voltage flow capacity through the entire conductor of the power supply cords. These conductor changes along with the non-metallic RFI braid addition is what makes the overall performance of the GEN II "SE" cables superior to the original GEN II cables, as Kenneth so accurately described in his review.

A small part of the review was also devoted to comparisons between the standard GEN II and GEN II "SE" Power Supply Cords and Speaker Cables. In both cases Kenneth found that each cable type performed very well in different ways and the "SE" power cords with the larger and heavier conductors and RFI shield was ideal for the higher powered components. Again, we stress that none of the GEN II or GEN II "SE" power supply cords or speaker cables are available in metallic shielded versions. In those cases, the unshielded (GEN II) and the RFI shielded GEN II "SE" were properly represented and reviewed.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this clarification to your readers. It in no way diminishes Kenneth's review, but it does clarify the unshielded/shielded aspects of his comparisons.

Very truly yours,

Len Miller

Leonard Miller, President and C.E.O.
Soundstring Cable Technologies, LLC