

C-MARC™ XLR Interconnects

Date Added: 01/06/2020 by Arthur Ross

I would like to tell all of your potential future owners and/or current owners of any and all LessLoss products, past or current, that because I have a coterie of close friends and former associates who are always anxious to buy (for the past several years, only LessLoss offerings) from one owner (me) of LessLoss products, I have been in the process of upgrading. Because of that fortunate position I have been an owner of virtually every power cable, USB cable, USB keys, interconnect, Firewall 1x through 64x, analog hardware from the Echo's End Original to the Reference and now to the Reference Supreme twin-chassis unit.

These statements are not driven by an ego trip or braggadocio. It is just a statement of fact based upon my personal experience as an audio hobbyist which began decades ago by building much of my original equipment. Over those many years my systems grew enormously with much legendary equipment to my current system which is solely sourced from audio streaming to digital output DAC, and amp listening via headphones only.

As one might expect over my many years of experience in this hobby, at every upgrade, I experienced the hope for improvement. Something I did not anticipate nor expect since beginning to incorporate LessLoss products into my system was the extent, the level of the immediate and future improvement that resulted. Such was beyond any prior experience with non LessLoss equipment.

In my communications over recent years with other owners of LessLoss products I have come to find that my experience was not unique. We have all noted that the improvement actually realized, frequently "out of the box," far exceeded the results experienced with products from other manufacturers.

In every case when an upgrade was suggested, the resulting revelatory experience was always immediate, and improved even more over time... And always exceeded what was expected. Candidly, LessLoss is a breath of fresh air in this industry of "grandiose promises resulting in nano-delivery."

Date Added: 12/03/2019 by Vladimír Bartoš

Dear Louis Motek,

I found your business looking for the right cables for my sound system. Because I wasn't happy with my previous "Wireworld" cables. This weekend, I made three pairs of symmetrical signal cables using the C-MARC™ cable provided by you. At the end we tested them with a friend. Improvements were bigger than I expected, every time. It has significantly improved the space for the deployment of instruments in the sides, also in the front. That's why I decided to replace the other signal cables as well as the power mains throughout my assembly after studying your LessLoss page.

Thank you for the excellent ideas you have for improving sound reproduction. I look forward to further cooperation.

Date Added: 08/27/2019 by Arthur Ross, Westport, CT

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Date Added: 08/20/2019 by H, New York

The Less Loss C-MARC range is the most appealing and effective cabling and power treatment I have ever found at its price point and at those 2x or 3x above. To get to the punchline, a complete set — interconnects, speaker cables, digital coax, power cords, and C-MARC Firewall 64x for each component — delivered in my system created (1) more focus and coherence around vocals and instrumentation along with a larger soundstage (2) less harshness around some highs; and (3) rich but controlled and tighter bass. The biggest improvement, however, is in the overall musicality and listening engagement which is MUCH higher with the C-MARC cable set for every genre of music I tried. The cabling allows the listener to shift focus from the cerebral aspects of critical listening in which each part of the musical performance is considered in a piecemeal manner to simply enjoying the music. For

any one who values their system and is open to improvement, an audition of the full C-MARC kit is highly recommended and I would say should be nearly a requirement for anyone starting a system from scratch.

For those for whom some more detail might be of interest — I currently have three high end systems, each with a different character. Over the years, I have seriously listened to a dozen different brands of cabling and power conditioning at a range of price points commensurate with the level of investment in each overall system. Virtually all sets of cables were above the price of a full C-MARC set -- at times many multiples above. Each set of cables had pros and cons and some stayed in each system and when they did, it would be the full set of cables for coherence. Often moving from one set cables to another in each system usually changed one or two aspects of the presentation of the music. At times, while there was shift, the "net" result was not an improvement in my judgement. Other times, there was a "net" improvement but there remained a weakness in some aspect. The "best" cabling in my judgement lowers the noise floor of the system and "stays out" of the way as much as possible.

In many circumstances, the specific character of a set of cables can be used to compensate for the opposite characteristics the components possess. For example, "bright" cabling can compensate for a "dark" set of components. In my experience, this approach always leaves a sub-optimal net result but may be the most practical approach given the components in question. C-MARC's character is neutral and I could not discern any particular emphasis the cables brought — they were not brighter or darker; they didn't accentuate one part of the recording over the others; they did not appear to be faster or slower than other cables etc. Their main effect was to increase the effortlessness and fluidity of the music while improving the coherence and size of the soundstage. Imagine a sort of haze around the band or orchestra members that other cables impart or allow — C-MARC simply eliminated the haze (and occasional harness around some highs). In this sense, I believe C-MARC is likely eliminating various types of noise and interference present within and among the components of the system, letting each play its role in the music delivery with minimal negative artifacts introduced. The net result was a notable increase in musicality and engagement with the music.

For anyone considering C-MARC one step at a time, my suggestion would be to start with either speaker cables or power cords. If it is possible to audition the whole set, even if finances may preclude the purchase of a whole set at once, I would recommend doing so, so that the full potential of the system in question can be heard with comprehensive C-MARC cabling.

For any skeptics reading this, I had no interest in changing the cabling in any of my systems which were all performing well. Konstantin at Atelier 13 in Nashville offered to send me a C-MARC set at his expense just to see what I thought. In the end, the overall effect was so profound I purchased the full set — they were that good. At the C-MARC price level, and at many price levels above, I have not found a better set of cabling that works equally well with tubes and solid-state, high efficiency horns and low efficiency two-way etc. C-MARC lets the inherent quality of whatever you have shine through to its fullest.

Date Added: 03/25/2019 by Johan Pettersen

For about one week now I have had two sets of C-MARC XLR cables for the dac - preamp - power amp signal chain. There is a "cable history" behind this:

Ten years ago I had first generation Nordost Tyr cables. I then purchased LessLoss Anchorwave XLRs, and found them to be better - more detailed, at the same time more musical. Couple of years later I bought some second hand Valhalla signal and speaker cables. Big expectations! But I soon found out I still preferred the Anchorwaves. The Valhallas had some more dynamics and details, but the at the same time a bit lean and clinical in a way, and I got listening fatigue. While the Anchorwave signal and speaker cables gave me hours after hours with music. I then got Tyr2 a couple of years ago - more musical than the Valhallas, some more details and dynamics than the Anchorwaves. I thought I would stick with them. But then last year I purchased the C-MARC digital cable (from streamer to dac), and after some critical listening sessions it was no doubt: In my system C-MARC digital cable sounds better than the Tyr2 digital cable - more open and dynamic, and at the same time full-bodied and organic. So now a new turn: Tying out the C-MARC XLR cables for the analog part of the signal chain. Impression after about one week: Incredibly wide soundscape, very articulate and dynamic, combined with full-bodied impression of voices and instruments. Extraordinary listenable and musical.

Date Added: 02/20/2019 by Denis Godart

I used a C-MARC power cable on my preamp and a 2nd one on my DAC. The C-MARC power cables are very neutral and drastically reduce background noise, revealing harmonic nuances, soundscapes, micro-details, smooth listening, spacial info and locality of the instrumentalists; they allow you to get the most out of your electronics; at home these were better than Triode Wire Labs The Statement; then, tweaking the interconnects was made easier.

Acquiring an XLR C-MARC interconnect stereo pair, I'd add this feedback: it is in the same vein with the same qualities, even if the difference is less of a surprise compared to the change of power cables.

Upon initial connection, not burned in, directly out of the box, I'd say these are a little above the Absolute Creations Ul-tim, which are three times more expensive, and also better than Audioprana Signature Ag Cryo (with Ag connectors).

If your system is resolving and balanced, go for LessLoss. If you want to compensate for this or that defect in balance, look elsewhere for cables that add sonically and are much more expensive...

Enjoy!

Date Added: 01/12/2018 by Glenn

I replaced a highly regarded pair of cables with the C-MARC and the differences were readily apparent. The C-MARC cables were much quieter, provided a more precise soundstage, more layering of individual instruments and voices and a more extended frequency response. Vocals were more present and lyrics were more easily discernible. Well done!

Date Added: 12/26/2017 by Joseph L G, Los Angeles

Over the past few weeks I have auditioned your C-MARC XLR Interconnects in my audio system and am very impressed with what I am hearing. In fact, the C-MARCs have supplanted my venerable reference cables that cost 5 times as much. Your C-MARC XLR cable beats my priciest XLR interconnects: Jorma Origo, Von Schweikert Master Built, and Stealth Metacarbon.

The C-MARCs have an open, balanced and vibrant sound that is clear, full-bodied and non-fatiguing. With the C-MARCs everything sounds more realistic and present, without being in-your-face or impolite. It is rare for a cable to be both highly resolving and musical. Compared to the C-MARCs, my heretofore reference cables sound dull and like they are missing information. The C-MARCs not only handily beat much more expensive cables; they complement and play nicely with equipment and other cables in my audio chain. The C-MARC interconnects have made a positive difference that I can easily hear and appreciate. Thank you.

Date Added: 12/06/2017 by mdc

I wanted to inform you that during the listening sessions of the Accuphase CD player and amplifier that I recently purchased, the audition took place with a very expensive, top-of-the-line Acrolink loom.

I took my C-MARC XLR cable with me and it clearly sounded better than the Acrolink interconnect. Considering the price of the Acrolink (close to \$2,000), this says a lot about the C-MARC cable!

Date Added: 09/04/2017 by Janus

After successful implementation of C-Marc power cords in my audio system I decided to try C-Marc XLR IC's.

I suppose, the cables I have received were partially burned in because I don't perceive the usual "veil" effect of a non burnt-in component . Louis confirmed the IC might have been played in for a couple of days prior to shipping.

The cables share the Lessloss "house" sound. They are transparent, perfectly transparent I would say, create holographic soundstage, lots of "air", spatial info, instruments have their own acoustic space, kind of acoustic halo

which makes them "present in the room". I can almost come up and touch them. C-Marc's are also highly resolving cables. You can hear every detail of the shimmer of cymbals that fades loooong.

Bass is deep and well controlled, precise. Dynamics also very, very good. And all this in a natural, organic way. I used or tried some more expensive, very good cables but C-Marc's stay in my system.

Date Added: 08/18/2017 by mdc

Dear Louis,

Even if the full loom of C-MARC cables and the new distributor (and 3 Bindbreakers, under the distributor) have only a mere 30 hours of play, I can already tell you that it is taking music to new heights.

I can't comment about a single cable in particular (XLR interconnect, speaker cables, bi-wire jumpers and 3 power cables, new FW-based custom distributor and Bindbreakers) as they were all connected together at the same time. But what I hear right now is astonishing.

As much as I have enjoyed the DFPC power cables (Original first, later upgraded to Signature) and the HTT interconnect, etc., the full loom of C-MARC cables and the new distributor (and two previously purchased 5X Firewalls) bring the sound of my cd's to an entirely new level.

I will wait for the C-MARC loom to reach the 100 hours mark before posting further impressions, but so far, I have only one word: 'Wow!'

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(after 100 hours)

Things keep on evolving very nicely indeed, Louis.

It is almost frustrating to realize that so much information was somehow lost or buried during all these years, including 'the LessLoss years' when it all started with a couple of DFPC Originals.

About 100 hours of play and the music sounds extremely rich ('creamy?'), smooth but very detailed, powerful and engaging.

Each cd reveals more layers of details and the C-MARC loom keeps all its promises.

When I decided to participate in the early bird program, I have to admit that I was skeptical about the principle of purchasing an idea, a concept and not a finished product.

I am very happy that I seized that opportunity!

You were right: C-MARC is a game changer.

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(after 400 hours)

Although I feel that burn-in isn't completed yet, I wanted to inform you about my most recent impressions of the C-MARC loom after around 400 hours.

Everything I mentioned before is confirmed in a splendid way: details, presence, 'kick', powerful bass, extended treble, etc. etc. etc...

This is way above the level of my DFPC Signatures and HTT speaker and interconnect cables.

When I return to my previous comments about these cables, it could potentially appear that the level of improvement that the C-MARC loom has brought is 'not believable', 'over enthusiastic' or worse, solicited and/or

paid for.

The extent of the improvement brought by the C-MARC cables is nothing short of dramatic.

And as my 'main' components haven't changed over the recent years (Ayon cd player and amplifier, Sonus Faber speakers), I can comfortably 'feel' and hear the upgrade brought by the C-MARC loom. But owning tubes components, I have to say that burn-in is a pain... I wish I owned a second system to which the cables could be connected to for 500 hours. Witnessing the burn-in can be perceived by some as a nice process but not for me.

Luckily, my patience was rewarded (and in this case, the upgrade was obvious even early on in the burn-in process).

Being familiar with your cables, I am quite sure that the sound will still evolve in the course of the next few weeks. I don't think it is useful to try to go deeper into details; I am not a reviewer and not even an audiophile.

But I can say that once again, you came up with a fantastic series of cables that clearly outperforms anything I owned previously, including much-loved LessLoss cables.