

Maturity of Tone Quality

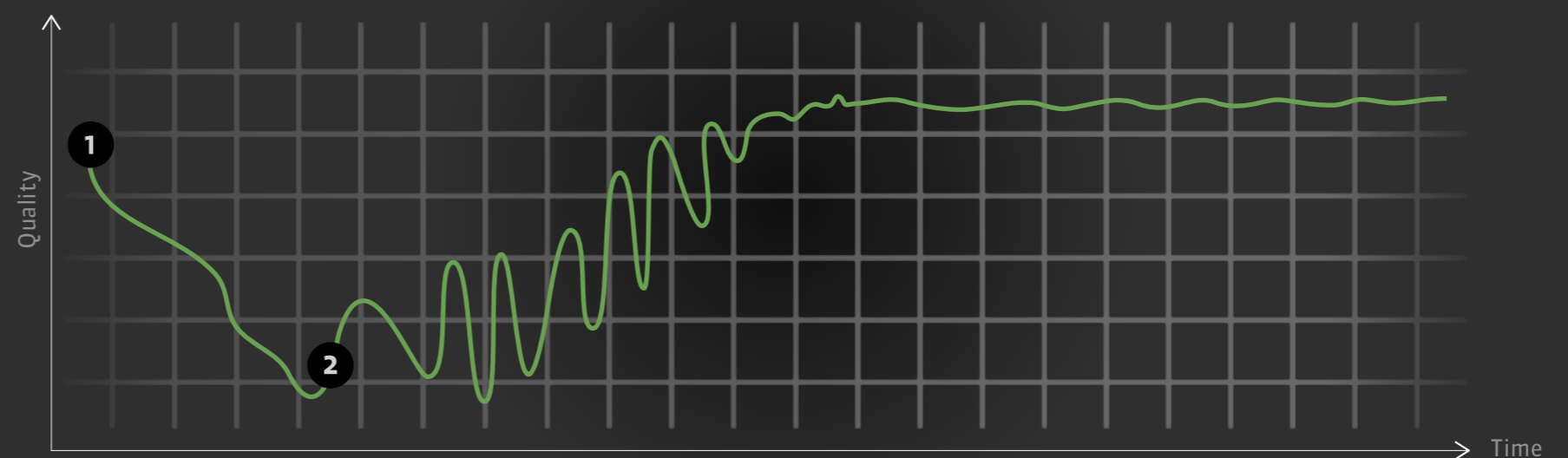
EXPECTED EVOLUTION OVER TIME

The elusive but certainly real phenomenon of cable and component aging, also called “burn-in” or “settling,” is as mysterious as it is a nuisance. Although none of this is science in hard numbers and theory, still, the conveyed experience of thousands over two decades seems to have converged into this general schedule. If you have experienced this, and found yourself shaking your head in disbelief, pinching yourself to make sure you are still awake and sane, please know that you are not alone! Everybody hears it and nobody can explain it.

Initial impression is about 70% of ultimate performance after burn-in. **1** Lasts only a short time, maybe 20 minutes. Harshness, brittleness in sound is there, but for some reason at the same time the “potential” which is to come can be felt straight from the beginning.

Upon moving the cable to a new location, the burn-in process seems to go back to around the 3rd day level **2** but seems to “catch up” more quickly.

Burn-in general schedule (speculative)



FIRST THREE DAYS OR SO

After initial connection, fluctuations are quite wild. Inexplicably, the second day is worst.

10–20 DAYS EXPERIENCE

This is the so-called “roller coaster ride” period. At some times, the performance will be stellar, and at others it will recess back into a strange out-of-balance presentation. Still, all the while improving over the longer run.

LONG TERM EXPERIENCE

Bad days, good days, probably not burn-in dependent, can be factors such as fluctuations in Earth’s magnetic fields, solar radiation patterns, local grid pollution, etc.

This described tendency is but a mere average garnered from feedback we have received for almost two decades from thousands of customers around the globe. The burn-in phenomena do not seem to be geographically dependent at all. The more feedback we collect, the more it seems the here described experience is accurate. Though there are several theories, nobody seems to have one of such authority that we could incorporate it in the methodological creation of new product. The only thing that seems to be universally valid is that “the more current, the faster the burn-in.”