

## Review of MIT's CVT Terminator 1 Speaker Cable Gadabout – Club Polk

### Equipment Used for Review:

- B & K Reference 125.2 S2 - Amplifier
- Prometheus Audio TVC – used as preamplifier
- Audiosmile Modded Behringer SRC2496 used as up sampling DAC
- Marantz SA8260 - CD Player
- Audes – Soul – Speakers
- Various Interconnects
  - Signal Cable - Silver Resolution Digital Coax – CD to DAC
  - Prometheus 4N XLR Silver Cables – DAC to TVC
  - Tributaries Series 7 XLR cables – TVC to Amp
- Belkin PF 60 Power Center
- Original Speaker Cables – DH Labs T-14 wire – Hand Made

### CD's Used in Test:

- Rare Earth – Ma – Vintage Rock with decent mastering from the 70's. Lots of different instruments used in this band.
- Envogue – Best of – A typical “hot” mastering, but it is spot on for voices
- Lee Ritenour / Dave Grusin – Harlequin – One of my favorite jazz Cd's. GRP always has great mastering. The singing in Portuguese is amazing.
- Charlie Musselwhite – Ace of Harps – From his days at Alligator. He has a couple excellent solos, especially the one with the Chromatic Harmonica.
- Blue Rock'it – Blues Revue – They do an OK job mastering. This CD has some of my favorites for Blues. Robben Ford, Mark Ford, & Chris Cain.
- Robben Ford & The Blue Line – Handful of Blues. From Sony Music, so it is standard mastering and the last of the Blue Line Albums. There are a couple tracks that really show off the small band. Good Thing – Track 9 in particular, has a great groove to it.

### Testing – also known as listening:

First let me say that my normal configuration is Bi Amped. The S2 usually powers the mid and tweeters and I have another B&K Reference 4440 that powers the woofers. I spent a bit of time listening in normal configuration. I then decided that it would be best just to use the S2 amp and listen for a bit, so I could really compare the differences in cables. I can say that I am glad that I decided to bi amp the speakers, with my existing cables. There was a marked difference to the presence of the music using two amps and I was not impressed with the sound of my existing T-14 cables using only one amplifier. It was kind of disappointing in comparison.

All the prep time done, it was time to try out the big boys. ( I should also note that I didn't try the supplied CVT 1 interconnects. I didn't have enough time to try all the variations and really wanted to concentrate on the speaker cables). The very first impression was Wow! It was a night and day difference to my original speaker cables. The sound wasn't muddy, it seemed

as if the volume had increased. First up was Rare Earth. Track 1 is 17 minutes long and has a lot of solos from the different musicians. There was a lot of subtlety that I could now hear. I have listened to this CD for years and now I could hear the Cabasa being played where I had never heard it before. There was also a marked improvement in the sound stage. You could easily visualize where each instrument was in the room in front of you.

The "hot" recording of Envogue forced me to turn down the stereo. I was really impressed with the tonal differences I could now hear in the voices from the lead and backup singers as well. Harlequin, an old standby of mine, is very familiar as I have listened to it for years. It was really nice to hear the rasp in the singer's voice as he tried to extend notes, at volume, in the crescendo of the songs. I also got to hear some slight finger slides from Lee as he went to higher pitches in his solo. Very impressive differences so far.

Charlie, from his Alligator record years (he is back at Alligator now too) never sounded better. Especially on track 6 – yesterdays. On this track he plays a chromatic harmonica solo. I have been listening to this CD for years and it has never sounded better. I got to hear improved sustain on the notes as they tapered to the next note that I didn't know were there.

The Blue Rock'it - Blues Revue and Robben Ford – Handful of Blues is the typical music that gets the most play on my play list (a lot of jump blues). I listen to both these albums a lot as they are great albums for driving. I couldn't really hear a lot of difference on the Blues Revue CD. It just sounded a bit more clear and perhaps a bit of improved sound stage. I'm just assuming that the mastering on this one wasn't as good as the others. The Handful of Blues CD definitely had some improved sound and Robben had never sounded better. The bass from Roscoe Beck seemed more defined and crisper than what I had heard before. Again, I didn't really hear much of a difference in the sound stage, but I'll write this off as a mediocre mastering from Sony.

In Summary:

This listening made it really apparent to me that I need to upgrade speaker cables. I spent six wonderful hours grinning like a fool as I listened to what these cables brought out in my system. I would really like to hear what the Audes could do in a Bi Amped configuration with these cables. I wish that I could say I was going to go right out and purchase the CVT1 speaker cables, but alas, they are a bit out of my budget at the moment. Especially, considering it would double the cost, with new cables, to two amps.

About a month ago, I did pick up two 10 foot pairs of MIT's Exp II speaker cables. That's the next step. Listening to what these cables will do and see if I will be satisfied with the sound. I suspect that they will be better than my existing cables, but will pale in comparison to how the CVT's sounded. If I still think I need to upgrade, the AVT 2 or 3 are more within my price range and I will defiantly be considering those cables.

So, I would like to thank the folks at MIT for showing me what was possible with my existing system. I had a great time listening to the CVT 1's. It has been a long time since I spent six hours, almost non stop, just listening and enjoying the sound. My next upgrade to any of my systems will be speaker cables in the 2 channel system and MIT will most certainly get my business.

Images of the system can be viewed at:

<http://www.polkaudio.com/forums/showcase/view.php?userid=85070>