By the standards of this forum I have a very modest, entry-level setup. By the standards of my friends, I have a highly advanced setup. Obviously, I have no audiophile friends. I have not owned very many different cables so I don't have a breadth of experience to draw on when evaluating these cables but I have heard definitive differences in the few cables I have auditioned – none of which have been on the level of the MIT's. OK, enough disclaimers, on to the meat of it.

Gear List:

Pio Eite SC-07
Adcom GFA 6000
Oppo BDP-83
AQ type 4 speaker cables
BJC Belden 1505A Interconnects
SDA 2BTL x-over rebuild, mortite, rings, dynamat extreme on the baskets, spikes

Most of my listening was done streaming lossless files from pc to ps3. I did do some listening from CD as well but I find myself mostly using streaming these days just due to the convenience factor and I can't hear any quality drop-off. If I had a high end CD player I might do things differently, but I don't so there you have it. The Pio was set on pure direct, no channel levels, delays, Macc, etc. I wanted to do a series of tests with some of the cables in place while others were out so I could evaluate the effects of the different components but other than a little time spent with just the speaker cables in the beginning, all listening was done with interconnects and speaker cables together.

Music included Allison Krauss, Diana Krall, JATP, Eagles, Dire Straits, Beck and a few others. Regrettably, I did not have near as much time to listen and swap cables as I thought I would. I had an opportunity fall in my lap that I wanted to take advantage of and that occupied most of my available time. It involves leaving the country so I didn't let Jesse know as I didn't want him fearing for the cables. Luckily it didn't really take much time to form some solid impressions, the differences were striking and readily apparent.

Impressions:

The soundstage width did not change significantly. It was wide to start with and stayed wide. However, it was much more coherent. It seemed tighter and more focused while still retaining the width, if that makes sense. It does seem that I lost a lost some height in the soundstage but while that sounds like a bad thing it's really not. The reduced height actually sounded more natural and realistic. It may have seemed lowered because of the increased coherence or because the soundstage depth was dramatically increased, giving better balance between height and depth. Vocals were brought quite a bit forward. Soundstage depth is something that I always found a little lacking in my current setup but not with these cables, there was a 3D affect both in front of and behind the plane of the speakers that was striking.

Imaging also benefited. My old Monster cables smeared the images terribly and the BJCs helped a lot but the MITs brought it to a whole new level. Instruments and vocals were precisely placed with excellent separation between them. I was highly impressed.

Tonal balance remained the same which is good. I'm happy with the balance I have now and it wasn't altered. However, the bass was noticeably tighter. I don't have any complaints with the tightness of my bass, there isn't any bloat or boominess, but the MIT's showed that there are improvements yet to be had.

I did not get any sense of a veil lifting off my speakers but yet there was more detail available. Maybe more importantly, and this is a little difficult to put in to words, there was just a "sweetness" to the music that was missing before. It sounded more immediate, more lifelike, and music was just plain more enjoyable to listen to. And in the end, that's what it's all about, right?

I purposely did not read any of the other reviews before getting the cables so I am interested to see what others thought.

The two sets of interconnects and the speaker cables cost as much as my entire system put together, including my TV, so obviously price is a consideration. That being said, if I had the coin, I would not hesitate to add these in. They made that much difference, even in my modest setup, and I can't imagine it getting any better. The cables go against the "minimize things in the signal path" train of thought but they just plain work. Thanks Jesse (and MIT) for putting in the work to make this happen. This is an opportunity that I don't think I would have otherwise had and I am truly appreciative.