

## Purist Audio Cables Musaeus

➤ *Fernando Andrette*

Since the end of last year, we have received a ten of cables for testing at the magazine. And the list continues growing. They are: the new power cable by **Logical Cables**, the **Blue Diamond**, and also the power cable **Statement** by **P S Audio**, **Fantasy** by **Harmonic Technology**, cables by **Audience**, the new cables **Douglas** by **DBM** and the RCA and loudspeaker **Purist Audio** cables from the **Musaeus** series and the power cables from the **Venustas** series.

I confess that the **Purist Audio** cables were the ones that most amazed me, and that's why I decided to start with them.

Jim Aud is the **Purist Audio**'s President, an American company founded in 1986, which, like most of the cables manufacturers, started by producing their cables for their own consumption, then friends started to order and spread throughout the audio market, and within a short time, the company counted on two engineers who were Jim's friends working full-time and about 50 testers spread throughout the United States who provide the company with the necessary feedback to modify the designs until getting at the end product.

**Purist Audio** has a holistic focus on the cables design, taking into consideration all the parameters that influence in a cable construction and its sonic attributes.

**Purist Audio** was the world pioneer to use the cryogenic treatment in the construction of its cables, as early as 1995. Nowadays, it combines the cryogenic treatment with the immersion into a strong magnetic field to align its wires' crystalline structure.

The company uses a copper, silver and gold compound in the signal conduction and its connectors are designed by the company itself, using the same material as those used in the wires, with a view to ensure a minimum signal transmission loss.

According to Jim Aud, each series of cables complies with purposes of different plans. The entry-level **Musaeus** was designed to offer the audio enthusiasts the best cost/performance relationship as possible. Yet the **Venusta** line goes beyond it, aiming at serving the audio enthusiast interested in take the most of his system and the **Dominus** line, for its high cost (provided that cables are produced with silver and gold), meets specifically the needs of audio enthusiasts who have state-of-the-art systems. The **Musaeus** was launched in 2002, and since then it has suffered some modifications, where the main one was performed in the cable shielding, which received a

new material called **Ferox**, a silicone-based granular material and, according to the manufacturer, with higher-quality properties for EMI and RF refusal, beside excellent characteristics of vibration refusal. All the cables from the **Musaeus** series use a multi-wire scheme, metals: OFC copper, silver and a small amount of gold. The shielding consists in the polyester twisting, a silver-plated copper-thread mesh coated with 90% of **Ferox**.

The manufacturer recommends at least 100 hours of burning so that the ends become more balanced.

At first, the **Purist Audio** cables reminded me of the **NBS** cables in finishing, gauge and even in some of their sonic characteristics.

For the test, which lasted five months, we used countless equipments, and in the last months, the test was focused on our gold reference and diamond systems.

The players were: **Rega Jupiter**, **Meridian G 08** (read audio Test 1 in this edition), integrated amplifiers: **Sim 5** (read Test 2 in this edition), **Krell Kavi 400 xi** and **Accuphase E 308**. The loudspeakers were **Opera 5**, **Audience 72** and **EVO III**.

In the Diamond system we have also used the **Meridian G 08**, **Krell Standard SACD**, **Roksan Atessa** and **MSB Platinum Link Plus**. The pre-amplifiers were: **Accuphase C 2800**, **Audiopax model 5**, **Krell KCT** and **Jeff Rowland Coherence**.

The powers were: **Gamut D 250 MK III**, **Sphinx 24** and **McIntoch M 501** (monoblock).

The loudspeakers used were: **B&W 802 D**, **Opera 5** and **Confidence 4**.

I don't know in which moment of my life I started to take a fancy for testing cables, but when I search my mind, I can remember well the impact it was when I listened to the first OFC copper cable manufactured by **Furukawa**, which I received in the late 70's. At that time, my system was composed of a pre-amplifier by **Quad**, a **Nashville** power, **JBL-Jubal** loudspeakers and a **Thorens 160** record player with a **Stanton** cartridge (I don't remember the model).

The difference in relation to the ordinary cable I used was so visceral that, in the following weeks, there was a pilgrimage of friends of mine and of my father to feel such a big change in the sound.

The ones who had a **Jubal** loudspeaker know about the difficulty it was to control its bass – They missed speed and mainly sustaining features. With the **Furukawa**, the **JBL** suffered a transformation and gained a survival of almost two years in my system.

But it was from the end of the 80's, with the introduction of other manufacturers, that the sonic difference among cables started to catch my attention.

In the magazine, I am the only person who likes testing cables, and therefore, I ended up almost forcibly accepting such a big challenge, because I have to agree that it's not easy to listen to a cable for countless days, months, before giving my opinion in respect to its qualities and restrictions.

And, to make things more difficult, it's necessary to resort to the utilization of numberless equipments in order not to commit injustices.

No cable is tested by us for less than 90 days and all of them pass through the same series of records used in our methodology, at least in two distinct configurations and in different rooms.

Besides evaluating all our requirements, we use another important point in the cable testing: consistence with the highest number of components as possible, because a cable's synergy level can be excellent in a certain configuration and just good in another one.

An example: let's suppose that a certain interconnection cable offers a more relaxed sound and reproduces the transients with a lower impact, however, without losing the characteristic sound and the speed precision. Put between a CD player and an integrated amplifier that offer a more "contemplative" reproduction, it will have its subjective evaluation damaged by the total components.

Thus, as we get to know the main sonic characteristics of a certain cable, we seek components that have the same characteristics. And this, my fellow reader, can't be done in one week, because it is necessary to map and limit the multiple options, in such a way that, in the end, we can reproduce the results a hundred of times until we get certified that the results noted are the same, regardless of the day, the emotional and physical state of the articulist and the climatic conditions.

Fortunately, I have tested too many cables not to get impressed with the technical material sent by the manufacturer, advertisement and neither their visual. As my father used to say, just by listening to them it's possible to know what are the properties of a certain cable or component.

Speaking of my father, I remember of a friend of him who one day bought a valve integrated amplifier by **Luxman**, an excellence of construction and finishing.

Just looking at it made us got "tickles" on the ears. It was one of the biggest disappointments which this audio enthusiast had in all his life. However, in order to convince himself that the product was not good, he took almost three months. At first, he thought his ears were deceiving him.

After all, with such faultless construction and the manufacturer's reputation, it was not possible that it sounded so poor.

As I always say in our Auditive Perception lessons, my fellow reader, your ears are sovereign, period. If it has not pleased them, it's not their beauty or technical line that will change what your ears felt.

Resuming the discussion about the test, I think that 100 hours to evaluate the **Purist Audio** should be extended to at least 150 hours, in the case of the interconnection cable, and 200 hours for the loudspeaker and power cable.

Because even after the burning requested by the manufacturer, we keep on noting progresses not only in the tonal balance (mainly in the ends), but also in the Sound Stage quality.

The **Musaeus** is a cable with noteworthy characteristics like: a tone color correction much higher than the average for its price range and an ability to recreate details and more details of texture.

They are two qualities that fascinate all audio and music enthusiasts who value, above all, the exact reproduction of tone colors and the intention of arrangements and the performance techniques.

As the cables were getting smooth, another remarkable characteristic was the quality of the instruments' harmonic body and the quality of focus and cut-off in three-dimensional spaces.

Its background silence is enough for the total recovery of microdynamics, without, however, repeating the error (very common nowadays) of focusing too much on the transparency.

With such remarkable characteristics and applied in the same direction, the **Musaeus** are totally focused on the reproduction of the musical event in a subtle, enthusiastic, dynamic way, with accurate basses and very clean and fast trebles, providing contagious and realistic performances.

Its consistence level is quite high. With the proper pairs in both configurations, the utilization of **Musaeus** only exalted the best characteristics of all the components.

The situations to be avoided are: too contemplative or too relaxed amplifiers and players.

As for the rest, it is the cabling type that will only add to the system and can never be considered responsible for the weakest link.

I can't imagine how someone may not like this **Purist Audio**'s sonority.

They are cables that meet the needs of all readers who have configurations from entry-level Gold to Gold Reference. And, in the specific

case of the **Venustas** power cable, a truly Diamond cable, able to give that finishing touch to a totally high-end system.

Purist Audio – Musaeus

GOLD - Reference

Distributor: Audioland

(11) 5096-4888

Average Prices

RCA Musaeus US\$ 420 (1 m)

XLR Musaeus US\$ 510 (1 m)

Musaeus Loudspeakers US\$ 630 (2 m)

Venustas Power Cable US\$ 1,590 (1 m)

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