

Lummy's Lair

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Sunday, December 06, 2009



Currently
 The Best of Rockers 'n' Ballads
 By Scorpions
[see related](#)

MIT S3.3ic, Part 3

Before the 80s came to an end, the Scorpions got in one more lick, with their compilation album, Best Of Rockers 'N' Ballads. This album featured one new song, a cover of The Who's "I Can't Explain." But the previously-released material benefited from improved sonics, especially "Lovedrive" and "Holiday." I was thus disappointed that "Loving You Sunday Morning" was not included.



For most people, the Hawaiian islands' most spectacular sunrise takes place atop Maui's Haleakala. Since I'm not there, you'll just have to settle for the sun coming in above Honolulu's Le'ahi. When it came to audio cables, the sun did not rise in my head, until I received the Cable Cooker. After that, I *got it*. Sadly, hardly anyone else has experienced with the Cooker or other such device.

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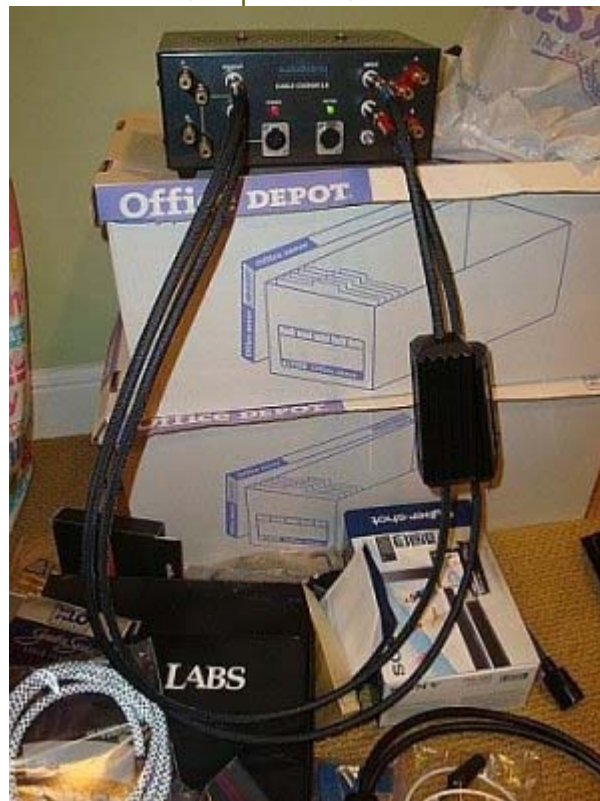
Wow that's a lot
 of **CASH.**



MIT still include instructions talking about their so-called "2/2 rule." That is, their cables are 75% burned-in after 2 days of use, 100% burned-in after 2 weeks. Bwahahaha! The instructions also say:

DO NOT use the DuoTech Cable Enhancer or other "active" devices to break in MIT products. These devices may damage your MIT interfaces and will void your warranty.

Fuck that! I cannot vouch for other devices, but the Cable Cooker not only is safe with the MIT S3.3 interconnect, it's mandatory, in order to realize the S3.3's potential.



I can't explain (pun intended) why MIT would discourage the use of, in this particular case, the Cable Cooker. Or maybe the sun has not risen on

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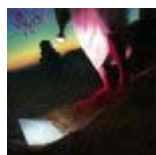
MIT, and they have never tried the Cable Cooker. What other "active" devices did MIT use? The Fry Kleener? The Nordost VIDAR?



See the S3.3's switch? It has three settings. I gave each setting one day of Cook time. So the cable has seen 3 total days of Cook time. Yes, it is Sunday morning, and yes, audiophiles should be singing "Loving You Sunday Morning" to the Cable Cooker. Now go out and get one!

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Friday, December 04, 2009



Currently
 Cornerstone
 By Styx
 "Babe"
[see related](#)

MIT S3.3ic, Part 2

Can you believe it's been 30 years since the 70s came to an end, and Styx's "Babe" was a radio staple? I did not really hear it in the 80s, but it started to surface on adult contemporary radio during the mid-90s.



As a child, I spent summers in Honolulu. I was always aware of the rainbow facade on the side of the Hilton Hawaiian. As I've mentioned before in these pages, I love rainbows and colors.



Aiden wonders why so many audio products come in ugly colors. Why can't audio manufacturers take a cue from the rainbow on the side of the Hilton, and incorporate pretty colors?

In the mid-90s, I occasionally brought "Babe" [especially when it appeared on Styx's Greatest Hits CD] with me to audition audio gear. You may have heard it at San Francisco's Ultimate Sound and Performance Audio, both of which were MIT dealers. At the time, MIT experimented with light gray outer jackets. While these looked better than black, they did not resist marks. If you come across used examples, you'll often find them with smudges.



Sorry, MIT's S3.3 interconnect is in your basic black. Because of all the black and all the plastic, the S3.3 looks more like Legos, than audio jewelry (cf. Kimber's KCAG).



Sorry, the S3.3 comes with locking-barrel RCAs. Yes, like all MIT cables, the S3.3 is, by design, directional.

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Thursday, December 03, 2009



Currently
Planetary Invasion
By Midnight Star
"Operator"
[see related](#)

MIT S3.3ic, Part 1

Give Midnight Star credit. In the early 80s, they combined that day's technology with dance music. 25 years ago, they came out with "Operator," which was popular among my classmates. Because phone technology has changed, today's youth probably won't understand "Operator." But audiophiles are stuck in their ways, so they'll appreciate and enjoy "Operator."



In the mid-80s, I took an interest in audio. While in Hawaii, I could go to Shirokiya, Longs, or Sam Sung. Shirokiya is a shell of its former self. Longs is now CVS Pharmacy. And the Sam Sung store on Keeaumoku is now a Subway.

Anyway, back in those mid-80s days, I went to Sam Sung. I wanted to check out some Sony tape decks. I wanted to hear "Operator." That is when I noticed Monster Cable products. I looked at the packaging, and discovered that Monster Cable were from, of all places, South San Francisco! A salesman thought that my little brother was going to ruin the \$2495 (an astronomical sum in the 80s) Klipschorn rosewood corner speakers, so we flipped the salesman the bird, and never set foot again in Sam Sung.



It's too hard to make out, but the corner of King and McCully lies in the upper right-hand quadrant of the above picture. The old institution, McCully Chop Suey, is no longer there. Neither is Honolulu Audio/Video. It must have been in 1987, when I was there for, ostensibly, Adcom gear. I overheard a salesman tell a customer that MIT (Music Interface Technologies) were better than Monster Cable. I don't remember what the pink/burgundy interconnect model was, but that was the first time I ever saw an MIT product. And I also learned that MIT were from outside Sacramento. All these years, I've always wondered why anyone would want to start a high-end audio company in the Sierra foothills. Amazingly, MIT are still in the area, Rocklin, to be exact.



You've already seen me blog about MIT digital cables and powercords. But you haven't seen any interconnects. Well, MIT now have a series 3 version of their Shotgun line. I took receipt of the lowest Shotgun model, the S3.3. There exist an S2.3 and S1.3. All three are available single-ended or balanced. Though the list price for a 1-meter S3.3 is \$1499, it is available at significant discount. So shop around.

12:54 AM - 1 view - add eprops - add comments - email it

Wednesday, December 02, 2009



Currently
Slip of the Tongue
By Whitesnake
see related

Kimber KCAG, Part 6

After the multi-platinum selling Whitesnake album, David Coverdale was faced with the challenge of coming up with something which would at least come close. Guitarist Vivian Campbell left for Def Leppard. The other guitarist, Adrian Vandenberg, injured his wrist, and wasn't able to play. Coverdale then brought in guitar virtuoso, Steve Vai.

Whitesnake's Slip Of The Tongue came out in late 1989, just as heavy metal had its last breath. Though there's nothing wrong with Slip Of The Tongue, it didn't build on Whitesnake's success. Certainly, Slip Of The Tongue is well-played. But Vai's virtuoso playing somewhat does not jive with Whitesnake's blues-based formula.



Wow, this looks like a scene out of Hawaii 5-0. When I started reading Stereophile, I read reviews talking about how certain instruments "light up" the recording venue. I did not experience this until the mid-90s. It took place at San Francisco's Audio Excellence. Some small Thiel speakers were playing Whitesnake's "Judgment Day," and I heard the way the snare drum "lit up" the recording venue. Once you hear this quality, you understand exactly what the reviewers were writing about.



If you ran into me at San Francisco's Ultimate Sound, perhaps you heard me play some Whitesnake. But anyway, in the mid-90s, a common pairing was the California Audio Labs Alpha and Kimber KCAG.



From left to right are a Cooked Silver Streak, the Cooked KCAG, and the brand new and untreated KCAG. The Cooked Silver Streak muffles the frequency extremes. Images are somewhat flattened and 2-dimensional. The Cooked KCAG has better transparency through the top and bottom octaves. Images are more fully fleshed out. There is more expression in Vai's guitar(s). Though Tommy Aldridge uses blunt-sounding carbon-fiber Yamaha drums, the snare still "lights up" the studio.



The brand new KCAG shows better contrast than the Cooked Silver Streak. However, things sound kind of disjointed. The midbass exhibits some softness. There is some whitish haze superimposing itself over the music. Snare drum has excellent snap, but the strokes do not light up the recorded space. In fact, there is a distinct lack, compared to the Cooked KCAG, of breathing room.

Since the vast majority of audiophiles has not used a Cable Cooker, it is easy to see why it jumps to false conclusions, and accuse the KCAG of being "bright." That may be the case of an un-Cooked KCAG Ultraplate, but not so with the Cooked KCAG-0147. The un-Cooked KCAG may sound more "crisp" than the Cooked Silver Streak. But in overall terms, I'd say that the Cooked Silver Streak performs at the same level as an un-treated KCAG. Conclusion: once again, the Cable Cooker is high-end audio's necessity and MVP.

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Tuesday, December 01, 2009



Currently
Arena
By Duran Duran
"The Wild Boys"
see related

Kimber KCAG, Part 5

25 years ago, Duran Duran came out with Arena, featuring live performances, plus one new studio track, "The Wild Boys." When I took Oceanography at Punahou, I was preparing for the swim test, when I heard a PE teacher's radio playing "The Wild Boys." That sure got me psyched for the swim test. Alas, when I got out of the locker room, I met up with the girls, who were, well, not the "little girls" of Presidio Middle back home in S.F. The Punahou girls were not just *bigger*, they

just seemed so comfortable, unlike lil' ol me.



Aiden has long loved "The Wild Boys." He has heard it not just at home, but at sporting events and in stores. Aiden says, "Don't listen to audiophiles who have not used a Cable Cooker."



Most people only see the postcard perspective of Le'ahi. It's also known as "Diamond Head," because the dumb-ass British sailors mistook calcite crystals for diamonds.



My Marine Biology and Oceanography classes at Punahou took me to the beaches and waters surrounding Le'ahi. Otherwise, I may not have learned about Le'ahi's other sides. Above is a view of Le'ahi's north side.



When I first got the Cable Cooker, my colleagues did a scientific experiment with multiple identical samples of the Kimber PBJ Ultraplate interconnect. Well, now that I have the new, unused KCAG, I'm leaving it un-Cooked, on top of the Cooker. The older, used sample is being re-conditioned on the Cooker.

Simply put, the Cooker reduces some of the KCAG's whitish grain. The Cooker allows the KCAG to better map the soundstage. Images are more concrete. Audiophiles who do not use the Cooker are like the dumb-ass British who still believe there are diamonds on Le'ahi. Audiophiles who do use a Cooker know that Le'ahi has 360-degrees, peaks at 762 feet above the ocean, and faces some really exquisite and beautiful beaches and reefs. And yes, having a Cooker is like knowing where the choice surfing spots off Le'ahi are. Or, for you pervs, having a Cable Cooker is

like discovering the superior Punahou girls, AND realizing that you had the potential to get one.

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