



Supreme Reference Cables

NØRDOST
MAKING THE CONNECTION



Supremacy...



Reference is a word that's over-used in audio. But one range that can genuinely claim that status is Nordost's Valhalla cable system. Introduced in 1999, it quickly established a totally new level of musical and audio performance. Nearly ten years later it remains the cable of choice for many manufacturers, reviewers and audiophiles, the one that everybody wants to own. Back then we called it our Reference cable because, for so many people who mattered, that's exactly what it was. Ten years on, it still is...

But ten years is a long time, and a company that does its own R&D and actually manufactures its own cables in the USA can learn a lot from its existing products. So, take the conceptual elegance and technological breakthroughs that established the Valhalla phenomenon and extend them further still. Spare no expense when it comes to selecting the optimum materials and construction, use the latest and best connectors, the most sophisticated peripheral technology. Because when you are striving for the last, tiniest nuance of musical detail, the uninhibited full-range dynamics and explosive impact of a great crescendo, every little counts. For many listeners Valhalla moved them closer to the music,

closer to the performers than ever before, setting standards of communication and involvement that others still strive to match today. But ten years is a long time and today we can do better still.

If music is the goal, the reason and the passion, then only the best will do...



"It's expensive but there's no doubt that it really works... By comparison with Odin, even highly respected high-end cables sound woolly and shapeless, with notably lower levels of detail and articulation. And we repeat, the differences are not subtle, but like night and day."

*Alvin Gold
Hi-Fi Choice Collection*

Introducing Odin – a new Supreme Reference



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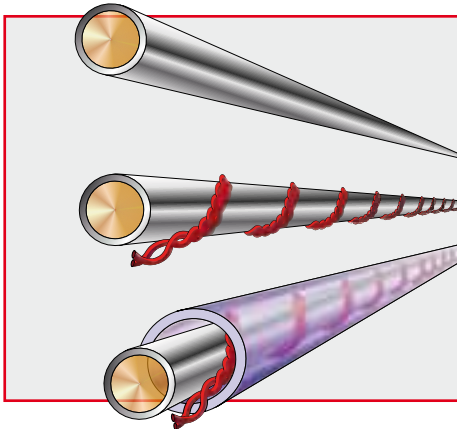
Evolve...

Dual Micro Mono-filament Technology

A great cable must balance conflicting requirements: mechanical stability and damping, geometrical accuracy and consistency, and low dielectric effect. Nordost's mono-filament technology solves this conundrum brilliantly.

Like all great breakthroughs, the concept is essentially simple, although executing it is another matter! Each conductor has a thin FEP thread wound along its length in an open spiral. This spaces the signal carrier from the outer insulation, creating a virtual air dielectric, while maintaining an accurate and mechanically stable relationship between the two, damping the cable while barely touching it, insulating it without affecting its performance.

But for Odin, we have taken things a step further, using dual, twisted mono-filaments. Incredibly difficult to achieve, the effort proved more than worthwhile. Our patented Dual Micro Mono-Filament technology delivers greater spacing between the conductor and insulation, reduces the physical contact between the mono-filaments and the conductor still further, and provides superior mechanical damping.



A good thing just got a whole lot better.



not better.



"If Valhalla changed the way we think about cables, Odin completely rewrites the book regarding their sonic potential. Just when a few of the more adventurous and forward thinking manufacturers were starting to snap at the heels of Valhalla, Odin opens a performance gap so wide it looks like the Grand Canyon at the end of a long jump runway! Odin makes Valhalla look like a positive bargain, but for those who must have the best I suspect the cost will be no obstacle. One listen is all it will take... The Nordost Odin is both a stunning achievement and a harsh lesson, whether the cost is borne financially or philosophically. It's also a brilliant, brilliant cable. Listen and be amazed..."

Roy Gregory,
2007 Product Of The Year Awards
Hi-Fi+ Magazine



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Protect...

Total Signal Control Topology

Electronic pollution of the audio environment has increased dramatically. RFI, microwaves, mobile phones and digital streaming fill the air with interference, attacking fragile musical signals as they are transported between system components. This has driven cable brands that rely on "off the shelf" conductors to move to ever bulkier, active or multiple screens of dubious efficiency, or near rigid microwave cables, all of which trade superior shielding against audio performance.

Because Nordost design and manufacture their own conductors, their Total Signal Control topology allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds. Odin interconnects and power cords combine the stellar audio characteristics of dual micro mono-filament construction with an innovative patent pending lapped ribbon shield that matches the protection provided by a solid metal



tube. Together these two innovative technologies create elegant and flexible individual conductors of unprecedented performance. Together they deliver lower noise floor and previously unheard levels of detail, transparency and dynamic range.



Protecting your investment.





"I wouldn't have guessed that Nordost could improve upon its Valhalla designs by an order of magnitude... Nor would I have guessed that the Odins would make the Valhallas sound like, say, the very best solid-state amplifier (perhaps a Keith Johnson/Spectral design) and the Odins like the super-powered Western Electric triode WE 97s. I never thought the Valhallas a bit "threadbare" – and am deeply chagrined to say that's how I feel about them now."

*Harry Pearson,
2007 Golden Ear Awards
the absolute sound*



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Optimize...

The Complete Cable Concept

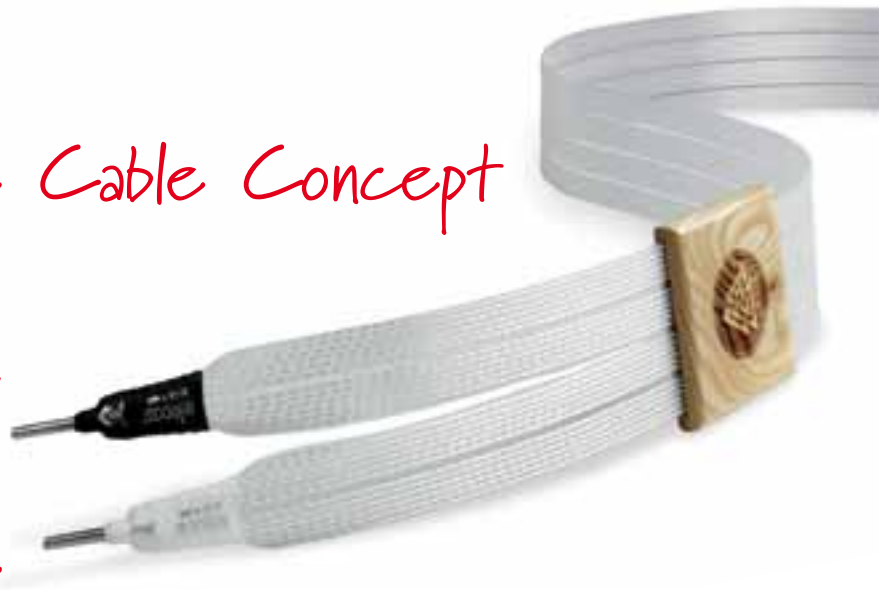
The most technologically advanced and best performing, purpose built audio conductors in the world are only part of the story. Turning them into our Supreme Reference cable system involves our Complete Cable Concept, a philosophy that embraces not just every aspect of manufacturing a cable, but its employment as well.

First, the high-technology conductors must be combined with extraordinary geometrical accuracy and consistency to maximize their electrical and mechanical characteristics, characteristics that differ with the position of the cable within the audio chain. So, although the core technologies that underpin every Odin cable are shared, their application and implementation are functionally specific, with optimized conductor dimensions, numbers and geometry.

They must also be terminated with the best available connectors, each chosen to complement the cables' high-speed and low-loss capabilities. That's why we rely on material matched, low-

mass designs like the WBT NextGen and our Z plugs. These must then be fitted to exacting manufacturing standards, and burnt in on our Vidar cable conditioner. Then, and only then, can they find their way into your system.

Finally closing the signal circle





“...the more Odin in the system, the better the system sounded. By the time (we’d) finished, my system as good as it had sounded before we began, had not been so much altered as transformed into something I had not imagined possible.”

*Paul Bolin,
The Audio Beat.com*

Maximize...

Building a Firm Foundation

When you choose your audio components, you choose them to create a balanced system, where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. But building a system is just like building a house - the overall stability (performance) of the structure depends on the foundations. When it comes to audio systems, those foundations, the elements that establish the conditions of operation – and ultimately, the performance – of all your carefully chosen equipment, consist of three elements:

The creation of a coherent cable loom, with matched, dedicated designs optimised for each specific task within your system (and those don't get any better than Odin). The mechanical support provided for your equipment, minimizing the damage inflicted by vibrational energy (just like the Sort Kones). And last – but most important of all – the quality of your AC supply. When you listen to your system you are, quite literally, listening to the power coming out of your wall. That's what provides the

“...we've grievously underestimated the importance of cables, both collectively and relative to each other. So, not only does the cable loom create the foundation on which system performance is built, but it starts not with the signal cables but at your wall sockets... First priority is the cable from your electricity supply to your distribution block: then the block itself, the rest of the power cords (star earthed through the block and with a clean earth too, of course)...”

*Roy Gregory,
Hi-Fi+ Magazine*



raw material your equipment turns into music – and the quality of the material defines the quality of the product. The QRT QBASE is a dedicated AC distribution unit built into a mechanically tuned chassis, creating a focussed star grounded supply for your system without interfering with the vital source impedance of the AC line, or limiting its peak current capability. Connected to a clean ground, it represents the real foundation on which your system's performance rests.



*The more stable that foundation,
the more solid the structure.*



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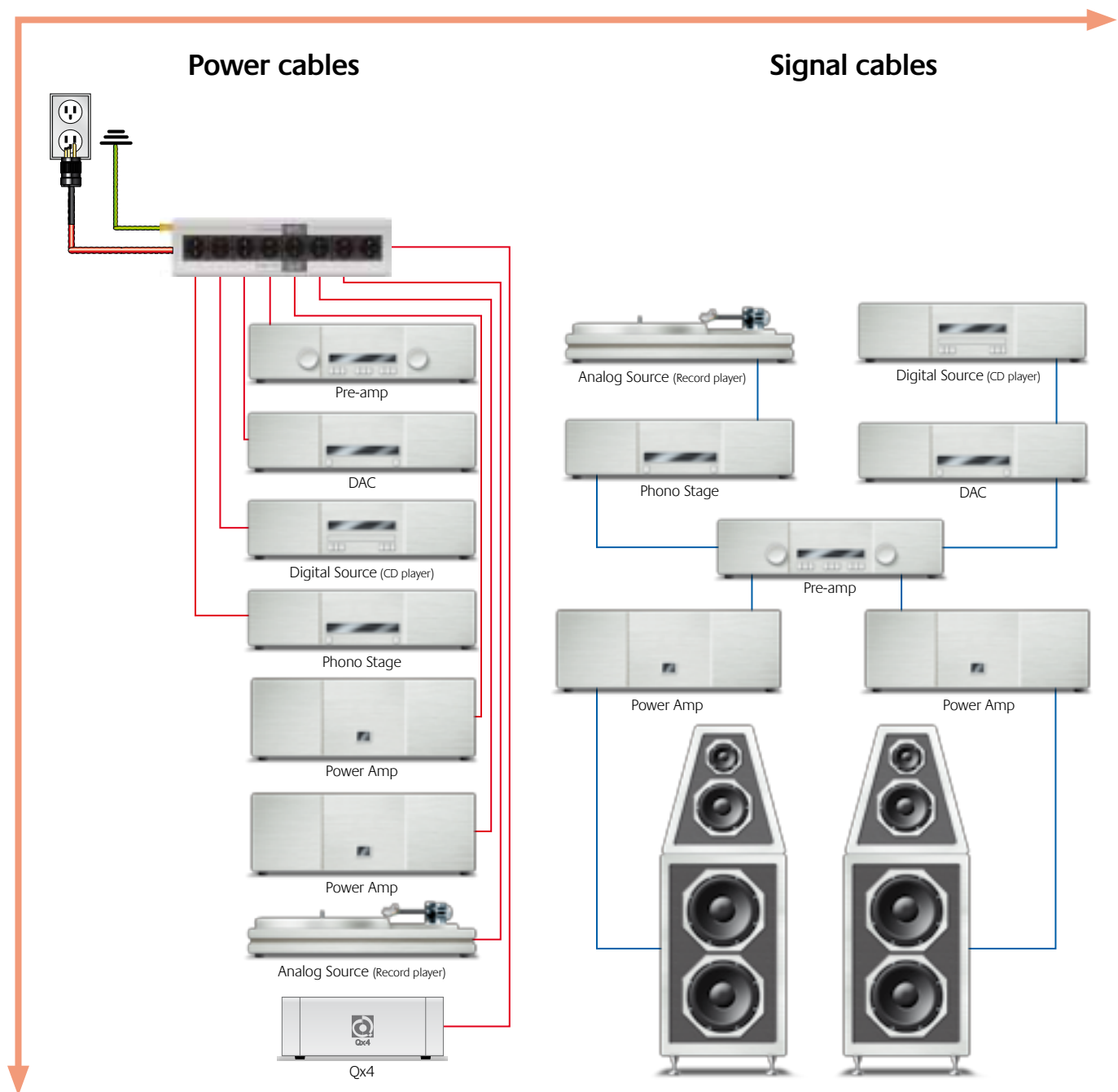
First things first...

Of course, you'll get the best possible results by wiring your entire system with Odin. But if that's not practical, or you are upgrading from an existing cable system such as Valhalla, where should you start?

Once you realize that the cables represent the foundation on which your system's performance rests the priorities become clear. Long experience

shows that the most important cable in your system is the one coming out of the wall. Everything flows from there.

Within the system itself your priorities should be in the order we've laid out below, running from left to right, top to bottom. And don't worry if you don't own one of the units shown on the diagram, simply pass on to the next.



Technical Specifications



Odin Interconnect

The Odin Supreme Reference Interconnect uses eight of our revolutionary Total Signal Control (TSC) tubes – each carrying a 23 AWG “Dual Micro Mono-Filament” conductor with 85 microns of silver plating over 99.99999% oxygen free copper. The eight conductors are precisely wound in a spiral pattern around a central spacer, which contains two silver plated OFC drain wires to create a cable of unprecedented consistency and geometrical precision, perfect shielding yet manageable flexibility.

The ODIN Interconnect cables are offered with a special oversize 10 mm WBT NEXTGEN RCA connector with passivated solid silver contacts or, for balanced operation, a specially machined triple rhodium-plated Furutech XLR connector. These connectors offer a low-mass design that reduces eddy currents and produces the best available interface and impedance matching between the cable and the attached components.

- **Insulation:** High purity class 1.003 extruded Fluorinated Ethylene Propylene (FEP)
- **Construction:** Precision Dual Micro Mono-Filament and TSC design
- **Conductors:** 8 x 23 AWG silver over 99.99999% OFC
- **Capacitance:** 19.0pF/ft
- **Inductance:** 0.7uH
- **Propagation Delay:** 90% speed of light
- **Overall Shield Coverage:** 100% Total Coverage

Odin Speaker Cable

The Odin Supreme Reference Loudspeaker Cable uses twenty-four 20 AWG conductors made from 99.99999% oxygen free copper (OFC) plated with 85 microns of silver on the surface, deployed in a flat array arrangement. Each conductor is wound with a helical “Dual Micro Mono-Filament” of Fluorinated Ethylene Propylene (FEP) with an extruded FEP jacket. Carefully matched conductors with a very high degree of concentricity and the precision in the manufacturing process results in a cable of superb sonic performance. The cable is arranged as four groups of six individual wires so that it can easily be configured for bi-wiring or bi-amping.

The Odin Supreme Reference Loudspeaker Cable is terminated with Nordost triple rhodium-plated, beryllium copper, low-mass Z plugs. These low mass connectors offer the very best interface and impedance matching between the cable and the attached components. Odin is also available with special triple rhodium plated Furutech spade connectors.

- **Insulation:** High purity class 1.003 extruded Fluorinated Ethylene Propylene (FEP)
- **Construction:** Precision Dual Micro Mono-Filament design
- **Conductors:** 24 x 20 AWG silver over 99.99999% OFC
- **Capacitance:** 9.2pF/ft
- **Inductance:** 0.15uH/ft
- **Speed:** 98% speed of light



“You have to listen to it to understand the overwhelming power of the Odin... it's never been so easy and so evident to observe the intentionality of the composition and it's never been so comfortable to listen to even the most macro-dynamically complex passages.”

*Fernando Andrette,
Audio e Video Magazine*

Odin Power Cord

The Odin Power Cord applies Nordost's latest TSC (Total Signal Control) technology to significantly advance the audio performance AC wiring. It uses six close tolerance 16AWG, 99.99999% oxygen free copper conductors, each covered by an 85 micron layer of silver, suspended in a Dual Micro Mono-Filament matrix and enclosed in the TSC shield. The result is a new level of power transmission efficiency coupled to superb mechanical damping and rejection of external RFI/EM interference. Each Odin power cable is hand built at our factory in the USA using state-of-the-art, carbon fiber Furutech connectors. Each IEC connector uses triple rhodium plated oxygen free copper contacts. The connectors are specifically designed to eliminate mechanical vibration and the stress caused by heat cycling, thus ensuring an optimum connection at all times. AC mains plugs are specifically chosen to deliver the best sonic performance in each international region.

- **Insulation:** High purity class 1.003 Fluorinated Ethylene Propylene (FEP)
- **Construction:** Total Signal Control (TSC) and Precision Dual Micro Mono-Filament design
- **Conductors:** 7 x 15 AWG solid core conductors.
- **Material:** 80 microns of silver over 99.99999% OFC
- **Capacitance:** 19.0pF/ft
- **Connectors:** IEC 15 or 20Amp
- **Wall plug:** US/UK/EUR
- **Power Rating:** 60Amp
- **Propagation:** 86% the speed of light
- **Overall Shield Coverage:** 100% Total Coverage

"Odin has decisively surpassed the still-excellent Valhalla and gone where no cabling has gone before. If you have pockets deep enough to afford the best of the best, I can report to you that you will not be hearing everything that your system can do unless Odin holds pride of place."

Paul Bolin,
The Audio Beat.com

Source Cables For Digital and Analog

Source cabling is critical to system performance, as the rest of the chain amplifies any degradation that occurs at the front-end. Even TSC shielding, combined with superior materials, topology and tolerances are not enough to guarantee optimum performance. That demands dedicated designs too.

When it comes to the transmission of digital signals, the leads and connectors employed must comply absolutely with the impedance standard in use. That means that conventional audio interconnects won't work properly, and no single digital design can cover all the bases. That's why there are specific 75 Ohm (S/PDIF) and 110 Ohm (AES/EBU) digital cables in the Odin range.

Likewise, the tiny electrical output of modern moving coil cartridges is chronically susceptible to the impedance and capacitance of the cable fitted to your tonearm; a heavy handed cable will kill the air, extension and musical vitality that makes records so special. To make matters worse, while you wouldn't hook up an expensive CD player with a \$25 lead, that's exactly what happens when you use the arm-lead supplied with most tonearms today - and then they expect you to pass the most fragile signal in your system down it.

The Odin arm-lead offers all the technological and material advantages of the Odin range, but combined with a dedicated design that delivers the ideal electrical characteristics as well as comprehensive termination options, ensuring that you hear every last nuance contained in those vinyl grooves.



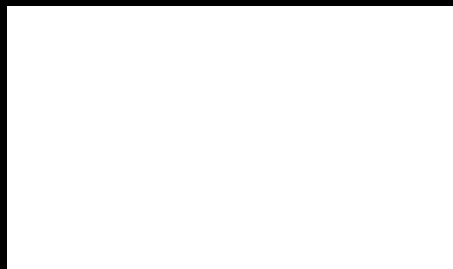
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“This cable has rendered my system significantly more convincing, more alive, more compelling than any other single change I can recall...”

*Roy Gregory
Hi-Fi+ Magazine*

“I have spent much of the last fifteen years reviewing audio components. In that time, Odin stands as one of the five most game-changing products I have heard.”

*Paul Bolin,
The Audio Beat.com*



NORDOST

MAKING THE CONNECTION

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