



How to select and properly connect Living Athmos Cables.

This segment of our site has practical applications and contains recommendations and advice for the listener. In our Philosophy and Practice segment we have outlined the main result we are trying to get from the audio equipment in theory. And here is some practical advice to get that coveted sound quality. Firstly, our assumption is that our listener has optimal acoustic setup for his audio equipment and has sufficient experience in listening to live musical performances. Despite the listener's personal preference for certain musical styles, we believe that the best results in adjusting and fine tuning of an audio system can be most effectively achieved using classical music pieces. Classical music's natural sound, unaltered by any sort of electronic correction can give the most accurate guidance to what changes and corrections are required.

It happens fairly often that the listener has to determine which cable suits his needs best in a short amount of time. In this type of comparative testing mistakes are easily made. Sometimes it can be influenced by a lack of experience in listening. But sometimes it can be caused by a phenomenon called "sound memory" of an audio system. As an example of this phenomenon, a listener might listen to an existing setup and swap the cables for the cables made by Living Athmos and at that point the difference in sound quality is very clear. It takes some time to get used to the new sound and the listener sees clear advantages of the new sound. The listener is practically ready to make a conclusion that the old cables are inferior. At this point the cables are swapped again and the listener gets an impression that the old cables' sound is almost as good as produced

by Living Athmos cables. This can result in doubting the results and leaving the system as is, with old cables, until the old cables' sound deteriorates over time to the regular mediocre sound of those cables.

The abovementioned effect cannot be explained from physics' standpoint, but it exists. The particular naming of this effect is not important, it can be called "sound memory" or something else. What important is that the listener should take this effect into consideration. Living Athmos cables have the delayed harmonization effect. They influence existing sound system in harmonizing the sound and this effect can last for some time even after Living Athmos cables have been replaced with other cables. So we recommend that in the listening tests the cables should not be changed more than once and that Living Athmos cables are used in the end of the test. We also suggest to the listeners to attend at least two acoustic or classical music concerts to refresh the understanding of a live sound quality. This step is very crucial from our standpoint, as well as practically proven. We urge our listeners to pay extra attention to this step.

If the audio system is being created from scratch it is very important to adhere to acoustic professional's recommendations and to prepare the listening room according to those recommendations. The listener should be patient and trust the experience of an installation company in selecting particular elements of the system and adjusting the sound. It happens very often that in a newly constructed listening rooms it takes time to develop proper sound and making changes during that period could result in frustration and extra money spent without any significant result. From our vast experience standpoint, the recommended warm up of the system can last from 2 to 12 months.

Let's look into a detailed scenario where the existing system requires a quality upgrade and the listener wants got get maximum quality sound out of his equipment. We recommend the following steps.



Step 1. Speaker Cables

The very first cable that we recommend to test listen in your system is an speaker cable. This selection may seem strange to some, but we believe that acoustic cables in particular is where a lot of information is lost or distorted. Speaker cable was the first type of cable developed by Living Athmos. All our cables are made with the same technological steps but they differ in cross section diameter, dielectric layer and level of isolation from vibration. This difference affects frequency range and musical fidelity. With Living Athmos cables audio systems can achieve more cohesive sound that is comparable to a wide range audio system and closer to the live sound as it was recorded. This unique quality is the main difference between our cables and those made by competition.

Standard Speaker Interface cables are recommended for acoustic systems that somewhat lack speed and fidelity. Those types of systems have a powerful but not defined low frequency range and using a typical multicore cable will only make matter worse. For example, this type of speakers is widely used in Home Theater Systems. We recommend using Standard Speaker Interface cables in these types of applications. With its high transfer speed and precision this cable will allow you to rediscover your favorite movies' soundtracks. But this cable can show its advantages not only with movies, but it can elevate Hi-Fi and High End systems with more clear and open sound.

The most universal cable solution is Reference Speaker Interface, since this cable combines speed, high resolution and wider range compared to Standard Speaker Interface. It is capable to reproduce power and energy of Symphony concert and likes with clear and realistic sound.

Reference Speaker Interface cables don't limit or overextend lower frequencies. It is easily compatible with low impedance acoustic systems. There are also encouraging results when the cable is used with class D amplifiers. This cable is recommended for installations in High End sound systems that are typically priced more than \$20,000.

We recommend Ultimate Speaker Interface for top of the line High End systems with high musical fidelity. Unique construction and maximal cross section of the core allow to deliver full power of your amplifier up to the last Watt and to reproduce music at the top volume levels. Ultimate Speaker Interface work with every genre of music without limitations.

After connecting Living Athmos cables it is highly likely that the loudspeaker system would require adjusting positions of elements in relations to the listener in the room. For adjusting exact positioning of the loudspeaker system we recommend not to turn the elements towards the listener. It may seem unconventional, but we urge you to trust our experience in this matter. Using test CDs correct the positioning in relations to the width of the room and to the distance from the back wall. The goal is to achieve more even soundstage.

Step 2. Power Cables Selection.

The next step is to determine which power cables will fully show energy potential of your system. We offer 6 models of power cables that can be used in different setups.

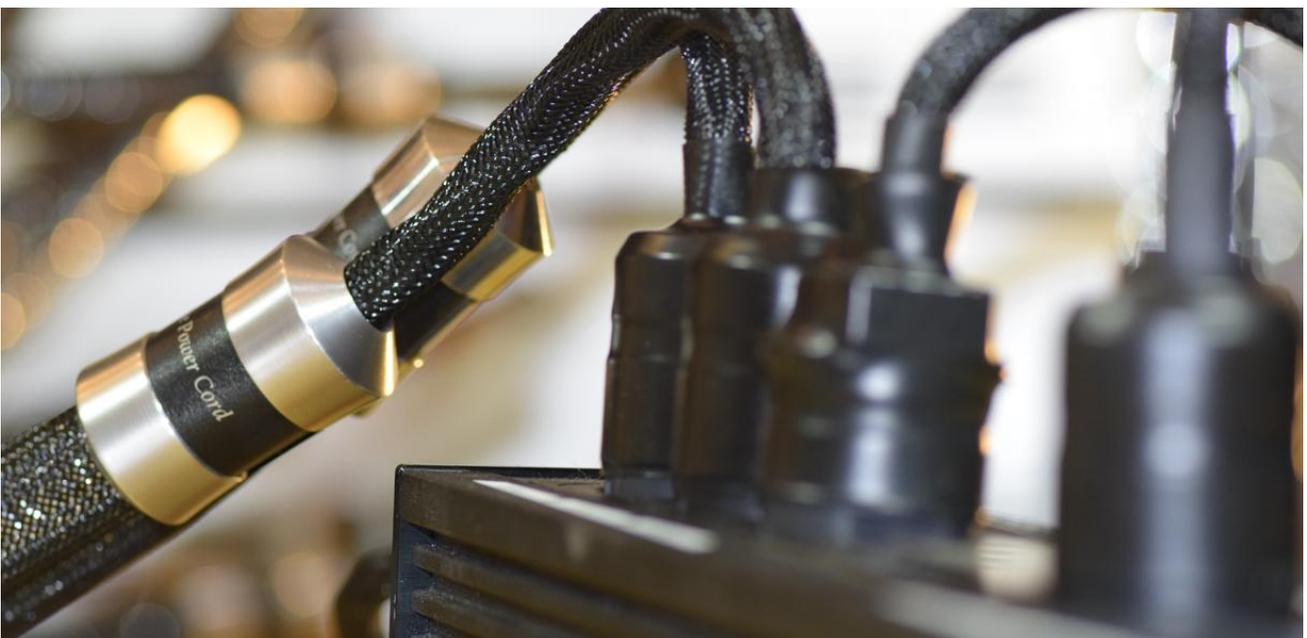
Main cables are a classical solution in power cords: three wires (Line, Null, Ground) with isolated conductors. The wide cross section of these cables allows their usage with high current applications, such as power distributors, power filters as well as power amplifiers. Power Cord models can provide maximum speed and musical resolution and are recommended for sources and amplifiers alike. Power Cord models from Reference Line and Ultimate Line can work well with power distributors and high current power amplifiers as well.

The second suggestion is that entire system should not contain identical power cables. That means that the listener should not use the same model for every element of a sound system. We recommend combining Power Cord and Main models.

Example 1. Connection using Standard line of cables. Power distributor is connected to the power grid using Standard Main, CD player is connected using Standard Power Cord, preamplifier is connected using Standard Power Cord and power amplifier is connected using Standard Main power cable.

Example 2. Connection using Reference line of cables. Power distributor is connected to the power grid using Reference Main, all other components are connected using Reference Power Cord. If we are to connect power distributor to the grid using Ultimate Main cable, there would be no significant quality increase. In that case the optimal solution would be to connect power distributor using Ultimate Power Cord. It would help with speed and provide more energy in the entire sound spectrum. We recommend connecting a cable from Main series to a CD transport or an Audio Server in this setup.

There are multiple configurations and applications for the power cables, for recommendations on selection the correct power cable please don't hesitate to contact our representatives or us directly.



For the reference purposes we provide this compatibility chart.

	CTANDARD		REFERENCE		ULTIMATE	
	MAIN	POWER CORD	MAIN	POWER CORD	MAIN	POWER CORD
Passive Network Distributor						
Power Line Conditioner						
CD Transport						
Music Server, HTPC, Network Audio Player						
Digital to Analog Converter						
Audio Video Receivers and Processor						
Solid state Preamplifier						
Tube Preamplifier						
Solid state Amplifier Integrated and Power						
Tube Amplifier Integrated and Power						

Power Distributor:

If your system setup contains power distributor or Power Line Conditioner we recommend replacing its power cable first. It is important to know that if the main goal is to achieve more speed and resolution, than you should select Power Cord. If your goal is to get denser and more powerful sound – Main series is what you looking for. The universal choice in this case is Ultimate Power Cord.

Majority of Power Line Conditioner, especially the ones with galvanic isolation provide less dynamic and less energetic sound. We consider this being a disadvantage and recommend usage of passive power filters as an alternative. And since that type of device doesn't have specialized receptacles for different types of user

devices, we recommend to pay extra attention to the order in which the audio equipment is connected to the power filter. It is important to follow recommendation to connect digital sources to the farther receptacles. Ideally, there should be separate power supplies for digital and analog devices.

Digital Sources:

Some people pay no attention to the matter, but we believe that digital sources are very sensitive when the cable is changed. It may seem illogical, but we recommend to try Main series with those devices first- these cables add a "feel of analog sound" to the digital sound. For High End Computer Audio applications, we recommend usage of Reference Power Cord, and if you are looking for the maximum quality - Ultimate Power Cord.

Digital to Analog converters:

We recommend Power Cord for these applications without a doubt.

Preamplifiers

If you used solid state preamplifiers, both Main and Power Cord can be used, but for tube amplifiers Power Cord is highly advised.

Amplifiers:

Depending on the sound characteristics of your system and the types of amplifiers you use we recommend to try using Power Cord cables with tube amplifiers and Main cables with solid state amplifiers. Make sure to check for the correct phase markings on the cables and connect the wires accordingly. As a result, you will get a precisely focused soundstage and true, dynamic and powerful reproduction of music.

It is recommended not to disconnect the cables and not to replace them for 1 or 2 days for the system to adjust. During that timeframe the full harmony of the system will be achieved.

Step 3. Digital cables selection.

SPDIF:

Connect inter component digital cables. Make sure to listen to SPDIF Digital Interconnect in both directions and select the one with best focus and details.

USB2 , 1394 Fire Ware:

Cables are used for connecting your PC or Apple computers to USB-SPDIF Converter, Fire Wire Converter , Pro Audio Interface and DAC's. We recommend using cables from the same product line.

Attention! The cables should be connected to the equipment ONLY when it's turned OFF. Connecting cables to the equipment that is on strictly prohibited. Also, be careful connecting cables to the input/output jacks making sure that they are not being damaged in the process. Please avoid bending cables excessively.

Step 4. Component cables selection.

The process of selecting cables to connect different components of your system is a long and labor intensive process, so it is useful if the listener has some experience and understanding how Living Atmos cables work. Our lineup contains three product lines and like in our examples with power cables, we can use different cables. For example, cables from the STANDARD line can be used to connect a source and a preamplifier, and the power amplifier can be connected via REFERENCE or ULTIMATE line cables. Make sure to listen to the sound in different directions and chose the best quality sound. For Phono cables we offer two different types of cable construction that correspond to MM or MC type of cartridge. They are not interchangeable. And since the analog turntables have many components that can affect the sound, we highly recommend to arrange for a demo cable listening before making a purchase.

Conclusion.

After the selections are finalized and the system is sufficiently warmed up (Burning) we recommend to adjust the locations of all the components and the position for the listener once more. In the beginning we recommended to install acoustic components without turning those towards the listener. Now we advise you to listen to both options and make comparisons. Ideally frontal position should have advantages in depth and position of the sound field and localization of images in the field, even if the listener moves. If the components are turned towards the listener the sound scene is a fan shaped and is distorted when the listener moves.

We hope that with the help form our recommendations and our cables you learned to distinguish between true and false and between harmony and chaos.

Enjoy your listening experience!

