

# Posted on January 22, 2020 Miguel Castro

The world of domestic and professional audio runs in parallel, meeting in specific moments, but with quite different philosophies, needs and benefits. Personally, I have always preferred to keep them separate, and I even recognize that I tend to look suspiciously at those audiophile products that boast of having their origin in the pro audio sector. In almost all these cases I usually appreciate a certain hardness, an excessive sensation of direct sound as if they "throw the music on me", which bothers me a lot. And all this explanation for what? Because Analysis Plus is an American company that has established itself in the success they have reaped in the world of professional audio, being the reference and providing the material used by numerous renowned musicians and artists.



So, I came across my (more or less well-founded) prejudices when Cliff Orman, distributor of the firm in our country with his company Cosmos Hifi, offered me a set of Silver Apex model cables to evaluate. The criterion and good hearing that Cliff has always shown me to have made me keep the illusion that, sometimes we find wonderful surprises in the most unexpected places and that's why I grabbed to evaluate these cables.

#### **Description and construction**

The Analysis Plus Silver Apex are at the top of the company's cable catalog, with the exception of the most expensive Gold Series. Despite being the company's highest cable range within those made of copper and silver, its price is very

affordable for any audiophile with a sound system of a certain level. When establishing prices, you can see their relationship with the professional world, where products are generally much cheaper.



The construction quality is high, without room for aesthetic delicacies, both in the cables and in the packaging that are more correct and practical than luxurious. For this test I received two pairs of RCA interconnect cables and one pair of speaker cables. The former are thin and very grateful to place in confined spaces due to their great flexibility. Finished in the same insulating plastic, they do not have an outer cover that makes them more sophisticated. It is clear that in Analysis Plus they keep the prices contained giving importance to the main thing, their performance and sound over more commercial considerations. The speaker cables, on the other hand, do have an outer sheath of black color, much thicker and stiff, without being worrying or uncomfortable (normal we go).



The interesting thing is inside and is its unique and patented construction. I mean its exclusive hollow oval cable shape. Marks with oval, or rectangular cables with greater or lesser thickness are several, and coincidentally I find them among my favorites. We can remember Tara Labs, or ZenSati, a company from which a few weeks ago I checked its entry level wiring here. But Analysis Plus technology is very different: to begin with its oval cable is not solid but is a twisted cable with that shape that leaves the center hollow. On the manufacturer's website we find numerous technical explanations that indicate why this geometry sounds better than a round and even an oval that is not hollow. In summary, high frequencies are the most benefited by this construction, remaining uniform even at 20kHz. From 4kHz they ensure that a non-uniform current distribution appears in a round cable, which occurs in a normal oval at 10kHz. What is clear is that Analysis Plus is a company that allocates resources and time in research and performs measurements and analysis to extract data on which to evolve its products.



## Sound

Analysis Plus Silver Apex cables sound amazing and surprisingly good for the price they have, so of course I want to leave it as soon as I start. So much so, that I have come to the conclusion that the advances that certain wiring manufacturers are making in recent years, represent such a great advance in the performance of democratic price cables, which put stratospheric price realizations in tight and very high range relatively recently. I have detached myself from reference wiring - from top-level firms that I should not name out of respect - in my system, since my latest tests have taken the colors to these hitherto "sacred cows" of the wiring.

Does this mean that it is not worth investing in a set of high-level cables? Of course not, but we have to keep in mind that some input cables and others such as these that, without being low-end, are cheap, sound frankly good and at a level that we used to find only in the upper cables of the most prestigious firms. If we want the best of the best, surely there are still differences for the most affluent and demanding fans, but sincerely we must rethink now more than ever if it is worth it.

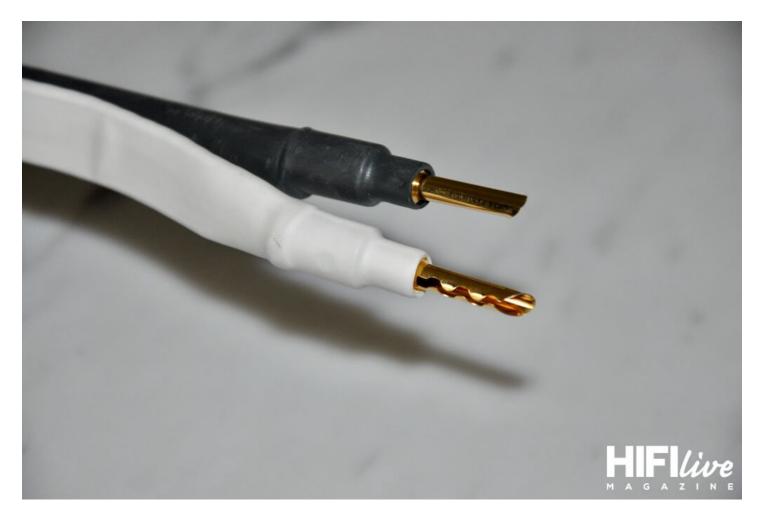


Returning to our evaluated, I am not able to find in the Silver Apex any type of coloration or sound track that helps me to qualify them - There are how we like to put labels on everything! - as warm, cold, soft or aggressive. I begin to feel that I handle the adjective neutral, because I remember the close revision of the ZenSati Fox, where I praised this characteristic in them. As a consequence, I have to refine a little more so as not to repeat myself and I must explain that I find a difference between the neutrality of these two models. While respect for the timbral reality in both is exquisite, the Analysis Plus Silver Apex show a perfect and exact musical tempo, capable of satisfying both the most demanding musical engineer and the knowledgeable amateur to the millimeter of a given interpretation. The Foxes instead seem to be recreated in the slow temples of music providing more magic and emotion. I want to make it clear that I speak of nuances, "brushstrokes," perhaps, that they feel more than are heard.



The Analysis Plus Silver Apex are frankly musical if your team plays the music in this way, as they are accurate and respectful of the reproduced signal. They contribute nothing to the signal, but of course they also do not cut, file or make up reality. In reality they are very generous cables in the way of reproducing each and every one of the frequencies. Knowing that its construction favors especially the high frequencies, as I explained earlier, I did not expect the fullness or forcefulness that they show in the lower frequencies. They are complete, lower everything that your acoustic boxes can reproduce and express themselves in a very rhythmic way, with speed and precision. We will not receive any sensation of anemic sound because of it, but with all the fullness and the necessary filling.

Does this mean that the Silver Apex exhibit a V-shaped curve that somewhat penalizes the average frequencies? Absolutely not, and the Silver Apex do not disappoint in any frequency range. In general, you can enjoy all of them because they stand out equally. Its naturalness and grain-free sound makes it a delight to listen to, any instrument invites us to look at it and especially the voices and pianos sound phenomenal. The latter helped by that brightness that the sharp notes need to sound real. And it is that as the transition between mid to high frequencies is made, things get even better.



The sharp shows that it is something special. Given the naturalness in all the records exhibited by the Silver Apex, highlighting something becomes more difficult, and yet I must make a special mention of their response in treble. I must congratulate your engineers / developers if this answer derives from their hollow oval patented design as advertised. Wow it works! Its sound is very liquid, without a trace of hardness but at the same time very refined and extended. The way in which these frequencies expand through the air in the room is surprising, but even more the attention is drawn to the subtlety that we find in the tiniest nuances, which we sometimes overlook and that when listening to them leave us that feeling of sound of Very high range before us.

Finally, I must emphasize that all other features such as dynamics or sound scene, solve them with the same sufficiency, ease and naturalness as everything else. Nothing surprises us, because we have everything in the most coherent way possible, without skimping on any aspect.



## Conclusions

The Analysis Plus Silver Apex are a safe bet for any fan looking to take advantage of every penny of their money they invest. I cannot recommend your purchase more widely, knowing that your buyer may not have to change wiring in many years - or perhaps never again -, unless we are addicted to the purchases or restless search engines of that sound nirvana that we will never find. For all the others they can be definitive cables with a more than adjusted disbursement.

# Analysis Plus Silver Apex RCA 1 meter - € 1200 Analysis Plus Silver Apex Speaker 2 meters - € 3600

# EQUIPMENT USED IN THE TEST

- Acoustic boxes
- Kroma Audio Mimì
- Amplification
- Ypsilon PST-100 MKII Preamplifier
- Ypsilon Aelius monophonic stages

#### Source

- Transport MBL 1621A
- Nagra HD DAC

## Accessories

• Acoustic Revive RR-77