

# Analysis Plus Silver Apex

JANUARY 18, 2019 // WOLFGANG KEMPER

The new Silver Apex cable line joins the established portfolio of HiFi cables from Analysis Plus. From this I got a pair of speaker and cinch cables from the German sales company hifi2die4 for testing.

Hifi cables are only part of the offer from Analysis Plus from Michigan. The professional music market is a key part of the American manufacturer. As an engineering office, Analysis Plus Inc has been a specialist in demanding problems and solutions, mainly with contract work for NASA, the automotive industry and well-known electronics companies worldwide since 1993. The tools mainly consist of computer simulations. Hifistatement already reported on the speaker and AF cables of the Silver-Oval model series in 2011, These cables are still available from Analysis Plus. The very fact of longevity alone is an indication or even a proof of a mature development service that is accepted by the customer. At the time, the author was delighted with the traceability of the technological foundations in the development of the Analysis Plus cable in his Silver Oval test. They all follow a principle that is essentially based on the phenomenon of the skin effect.

The skin effect is an old topic and probably everyone who deals intensively with cables has heard about it: It leads to an uneven signal flow of alternating current through the conductor. As the signal frequency increases, the current pushes to the outer area and the surface. This means that cables with a large cross-section are particularly affected. Due to the signal flow on the surface of the conductors in a multi-core cable, the influencing of the conductors among one another in the high frequencies is particularly disadvantageous. This proximity effect has an enormous potential for interference and, as has been determined in Analysis Plus, brings about measurable distortions in the audio area of round conductors from around four kilohertz. This applies in particular to the accuracy of the pulse processing. Analysis Plus has thoroughly researched this phenomenon and, in addition to the thickness and material mix of a cable, has placed a special focus on this during development. The result was and is hollow oval conductors. These minimize the skin effect and the impairment of two audio lines to one another, the proximity effect. From a measurement point of view, this structure should lead to the precise reproduction of pulse edges. Parameters such as rise time, settling behavior and background noise are usually more relevant aspects in the development of audio

devices such as amplifiers. With Analysis Plus, these criteria are of course taken into account in addition to the technical data of impedance and capacitance used for high-quality cables. The decisive factor in the development of a cable structure in Michigan is the metrological provability of the qualitatively relevant, Hollow Oval conductors are the



The speaker cables in the test were equipped with high-quality WBT fork shoes. Alternatively, bananas are available

basis of all cables from Analysis Plus. Hollow is the literal translation of the term hollow used by Analysis Plus in the description but needs explanation for the Silver Apex series. Because in the concentrically constructed Silver Apex, the conductors are only hollow to the extent that they are not solid but structured around a core. This core for physical stabilization forms an oval strand made of oxygen-free copper in the silver apex cables. The inner plus conductor made of pure silver lies around this core. A layer of Mylar tape insulates it from the silver minus conductor, which in turn surrounds it oval, which also acts as a shield for the inner plus conductor. A Teflon dielectric isolates the minus conductor from the actual shield. At the same time, this defines the cable impedance. The shielding and the minus conductor are brought together on both sides of the connectors on the cinch cable. In the symmetrical version of the same price, they are connected separately to the corresponding contacts.

The visible, black outer sheath of the speaker cable made of PVC fabric is flat, keeps the cable very flexible and allows great mobility. The entire construction remains extremely

flexible with both the NF cable and the speaker cable and is therefore easy to lay. All the other lines I use in comparison are much stiffer. The Silver Apex is manufactured in-house and is more complex than other cables from the manufacturer, which is also reflected in the price. Analysis Plus has built a reputation for offering cables at a reasonable price-sound ratio. Due to the complex cable construction, it is not possible to manufacture lengths longer than about 30 meters in the production of the Silver Apex without having to readjust the machines. This also means effort which adds to the cost of high-quality materials. A direction of rotation is only given for the speaker cable, which is clearly specified by the names AMP and SPKR. I found no evidence on the cinch cable.



The gold cinch connectors are also very carefully assembled with the cable

The WBT 0681 Ag fork shoes of my speaker test cable are made of solid fine silver with elastomer vibration damping to match the Silver Apex. The cinch cable is provided with gold-plated plugs. The cables are of high quality and very solidly secured with shrink sleeves. That's why, like our photographer, I was afraid to open the plugs. I was interested in whether there is hermetic insulation here to prevent oxygen from reaching the silver conductors. I could not clarify that with certainty. The entire structure, however, makes perfect partitioning likely. However, if the ravages of time can get tough here, it is reassuring to know that the conductivity of oxidized silver is considerably better than that of oxidized copper.



A meaningful sound comparison of cables in an existing system is not an easy thing. Because with well-coordinated audio chains, the existing connections are a coherent size in the musical whole. The exchange of a single connection, even if the candidate has very good qualities, can lead to upset in the system. Therefore I am glad that Jürgen Sachweh from sales hifi2die4 sent me a set of LS cables and a pair of RCA cables. So, I can configure my system completely or step by step with the Silver Apex using the Analysis Audio full-range ribbon speakers, the two Air Tight tube mono power amplifiers on my level-adjustable Antelope Zodiac plus DA converter. The Windows computer with Audirvana plus serves as a sound source for music from the hard drive or for high-stream streaming from Qobuz. It is connected to the D / A converter via Audioquest Diamond USB. Alternatively, my Primare DVD 30 plays at the DAC, connected via JIB-Boaacoustic Krypton AES / EBU.



The Silver Apex speaker cables have a running direction and are marked accordingly

The first hearing test was the Silver Apex speaker cable, which replaced my Real-Cable HD-TDC, which is currently in use, and is priced significantly below the test candidate. The considerable change in sound surprised me because I did not suspect such a magnitude. Already with the first track “Holding On” from the album Take Me To The Alley from Gregory Porter I experienced a performance with enormous tension and an explosiveness that I could not have expected from the ribbon speaker. The music spread closer to me and addressed me more directly. Instruments and vocals offered a gripping dynamic, so I had the feeling that the cable was playing louder. The sharpness of the

contours in Gregory Porter's voice was astounding, mainly because it was both warm and powerful. All instruments played together fluently but had their own space and did not blur into each other. The bass tones burst like bubbles in the room. The resolution of the snare drums was fascinating, because with this High-Res recording every single drumbeat could be heard so precisely and finely structured in the timbre. This impression of dissolution,



Analysis Plus technology is described in the information material included with the cables

when I then replaced my In-akustik 1302 cinch cable between the D / A converter and the output stages with the Analysis Plus, the positive impression of the speaker cable improved again in subtleties and made the whole musical event even more harmonious. The additional cinch cabling provides a stage that is far behind and significantly improves the clarity of the voice. The tonal balance remains. Fortunately, slight S-sound overemphasis, which the in-acoustics cable allowed, is completely defused in Gregory Porter's voice. Contrary to the common belief that silver cables can tend to be over-present, the way the two Analysis Plus work together ensures wonderfully calm, fluid music that is captivating due to its sharpness and details. At the same time, it remains exciting and the clearly structured spatial order supports the perception of the instruments. I perceive this plastic representation as a considerable improvement. Marianne Faithfull's new, very emotional album *The Analysis Plus* cable gives *Negative Capability* a fascinating openness and can convey the emotions up close. Your voice is so superficial and physical; here, too, the instruments are arranged harmoniously around them to create an exciting performance. Dieter Ilg and Till Brönner's album *Nightfall*



was impressed by the accuracy of Dieter Ilg's virtuoso plucked double bass. The game flow was thrilling. Some blowing sounds from Till Brönner's trumpet were completely new to me. The unusual closeness and realistic directness tie me into the music in such a way that I can't get enough of it.

With Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade with Ansermet and L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, which was impressive due to its force, timbres and large stage, I went to the demolition. I swapped the Analysis Plus speaker cable back for my Real Cable. Now the room collapsed, and the orchestra was only strikingly large between the speakers. The timbres were still beautiful and genuine, but there was a lack of openness and easy reproduction. Without the Analysis Plus LS cable, the orchestral musicians almost seemed to struggle. The strings lacked the free, filigree shimmer. Although the virtues of the Silver Apex Cinch cable were audible, the convincing qualities of their clarity could not be seen without the loudspeaker cable.



The Analysis Plus Silver Apex are musically convincing. Thanks to their mechanical flexibility, they can also be laid perfectly

The qualities of the Silver Apex speaker cable had become clear to me and I regretted that I had promised Mr. Sachweh to send them back before the New Year. I would have loved to enjoy this highly musical setup for a few more weeks. However, I had the impression that the cinch cable had not yet been completely satisfied in its assessment. I installed it in my large system between the preamplifier and the spectral power amplifier

responsible for the high and mid-range from 300 Hertz. The Silver Apex replaced an In-akustik 1302 here as well. A Shunyata Andromeda LS with Enacom LS is used as speaker cable. There was light as The Tricornby Manuel de Falla in the DG-recording with Seije Ozawa and the Bostonians on the Bardo turntable lay and sounded. The music was shiny, powerful, furious, subtle and gripping. Here, too, the Silver Apex arranged all participants sensitively and allowed them to display their timbres. Especially the spectacular dances at the end of the work unfolded with a brilliant vehemence. The gloss of the Silver Apex structured fine and plastic but did not create any hard artifacts or overemphasis. I put The Best Of Focus - Hocus Pocus on: The double album by Music On Vinyl has a penchant for toughness. Of course, the Analysis Plus cinch cable didn't iron it smoothly. Fortunately, it also brought its advantages into play here with fine spirit, orderliness and timbres and significantly enhanced the musical performance of the Dutch in my music room.

The Silver Apex cables cost a lot of money. In a good audio chain, however, this is sensible. I doubt that with a similar investment in an amplifier, D / A converter or turntable, even a comparable sound enhancement is possible.

## STATEMENT

The Analysis Plus Silver Apex succeeds in an impressive, brilliant synthesis between exciting music performance and relaxed listening pleasure. Everything that makes up music is raised to a magnificent level with these cables. The name "Heavens Gate" fits here.