

ECHOLE *Infinity* AC power cable upgrade REPORT.

For more than 30 years I have steadily improved the performance of my audio system. Over that time, I have taken advantage of every opportunity to listen to a broad range of audio equipment by many of the world's leading manufacturers and have assembled a variety of systems – ranging from custom fully-active solid-state systems to full tube-based systems. After many years of experimentation, I have focused on what delivers the most lifelike, natural sound in my room – a combination of minimalist SET amplifiers with high efficiency full range speakers. This approach has been steadily finetuned in the last 5 years to culminate in my current system – Esoteric *K1 Grandioso* SACD; Absolare *Altius* preamp and a pair of Absolare *Altius* 845 SET monoblock amplifiers that drive custom field-coil versions of Voxativ's *9.87* full range speaker system.

Since I first started building systems in the mid-1980s I understood the critical role a system's cabling plays in optimising performance through a willingness to experiment and the patience to engage in many exercises of trial and error. Over the years I have auditioned and owned many cables from leading designers including Audioquest, Stealth, Purist, Siltech, Shunyata, Kimber, Silent Source, XLO and Echole among many others. Over the last 9 years, I consolidated my system's cabling with a steadily increasing quantity of Echole cables which have consistently outperformed all others. Following a series of recent upgrades, my system has been fitted with an almost complete suite of Echole *Limited Edition* cables from source to speakers – including 8 power cables, 3 pairs of balanced interconnects, and speaker cables.

I recently had the opportunity to audition Echole's new flagship power cable – the *Infinity* – which replaced the *Limited Edition* power cable on my Absolare preamp. Even though this was only one cable, and the *Infinity* power cable requires a considerable burn in period, the positive effect of this upgrade was immediately obvious. I can hear a significant increase in overall transparency and resolution, which render textural contrasts and subtle shifts in energy and dynamics with outstanding clarity, without ever sacrificing a supremely natural balance of image density and harmonic richness. Within 50 hours, the already very low noise floor is lowered further, increasing the sense of palpability and the sound has also opened up considerably to become even more relaxed yet vividly natural. This is especially noticeable in its handling of distinctive timbres and the tonal characteristics specific to different instruments and voices. Portrayal of the sound stage particular to each recording venues, as well as the natural decay of sound and the spectrum of reflections, have all become more apparent and intelligible without becoming distracting. These qualities, along with a greater sense of effortlessness are combined to increase the compelling sense of naturalness and presence.

On the strength of the profound shift in performance I experienced comparing just one single *Infinity* power cable to *Limited Edition* in my system, my Absolare *Altius* 845SET monoblocks are now both fully wired internally with Echole's *Infinity* and I am now upgrading Absolare preamps from my current *Altius* to the new state of the art 2020 *Altius Infinity* preamp. This so far has had a profoundly positive impact on my entire system's performance and I cannot wait to hear how the new *Altius Infinity* preamp will similarly contribute to my system's performance.

Chris Malcolm

December 2019 Infinity feedback to Echole:

Dear Echole:

A quick update on the *Infinity* cable upgrade. As you know, the single *Infinity* power cable I auditioned replaced a *Limited Edition* power cable on my Altius preamp and I am happy to report the good news is the positive effect of the *Infinity* was immediately obvious. There is a significant increase in transparency and resolution across the spectrum without upsetting Echole's hallmark balance of natural timbre, image density and harmonic richness. This makes for a profound shift in the sense of energy flowing through a performance that enhances the sense of presence and musicality. Everything is more visceral – textural contrasts and shifts in dynamics are more obvious without becoming distracting. The scale of sound stage has increased in every dimension through a clearer sense of the full extent of the natural decay of sounds and the spectrum of reflections are more apparent and intelligible without seeming exaggerated. I am very excited to learn how this cable runs in over coming weeks but already I know I will find it difficult to limit myself to one *Infinity* cable in my system in future.

Cheers,

Chris