

Allnic Audio Mu-8R interconnect cables

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We looked at Allnic Audio's Mu-7R interconnect cables in issue 159. Recently, Allnic developed the Mu-8R. This is a step-change in the product line, building on the company's ZL ('Zero Loss') Technology as seen in previous ranges. This is more 'evolution' than 'revolution' (that happened earlier) but that evolution comes in the shape of significantly improved performance. And to those who already get what Allnic is doing with cables, this amplifies just how right they were!

As the cable's name suggests, Kang Su Park's contribution to the audiophile cable world is the use of Mu-metal as a braided shield. This replaces the copper and/or silver mesh used in most cable shields. While conventional shields are good at combatting electrical noise, they have no effect on magnetically induced noise. By using a Mu-metal shield, Allnic suggests the level of electromagnetic noise is reduced by -30dB, about 30 times the reduction provided by conventional shields. It also remains effective on electrically generated noise.

In addition, Allnic uses 1,000°C hot-melt welding in place of solder or clamping between cable terminations and wire. This also makes for a more continuous conductor and means no more terminal housings falling apart over time. Then, contact resistance is reduced by precision-milled, slit, heat-treated beryllium-copper terminations to help maximum cable contact.

Step on the brakes!

Allnic believes the midrange is vitally important in audio and strives to apply a spot of 'braking' to prevent exaggeration in this frequency range. >>



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» This is performed by metal plating of some wires in the cable and heavier gauge wires for bass. Allnic calls this 'MRCT' or 'Mid-Range Control Technology' and is the result of a lot of listening and measurement to select precisely the right metal plating and cable gauge.

These developments are common to every iteration of Allnic Audio's ZL Technology cable. However, every ZL Technology cable until Mu-8R used copper conductors, where the new cable uses solid copper and silver conductors (not silver-plated copper). This change gave Allnic a chance to revisit other aspects of cable design, and in the process double the amount of EMI/RF blocking Mu-metal shielding.

The result is an elegant cable (and one that is beautifully packaged for those looking to buy their significant audio other a present!), but possibly not the most flexible cable on the market. The cables do curve well, but you need to give them some space to curve naturally... no 'placing products close to a wall and bending the cable through sharp right angles' here! The previous 7R cables were already demanding in this sense and the 8R only builds on those demands. However, unless you use extremely light products that could end up hovering on their phono plugs, this is more an observation than a criticism.

No looms given

Looking back at our last session with Allnic's ZL Technology cables in issue 159, there's a difference; last time we were sent a whole 'loom' of cables (power, interconnects, speaker cables). This time, it was just the interconnects on offer. I'd like to claim there's some conspiratorial reason why there were no power cords or speaker cables, but

the real reason is simply that it wasn't possible. Even though Allnic now has silver and copper conductor speaker cables available, its power cables haven't had the same upgrades.

I liked the Mu-7R a lot, in part because I agree with the notion of getting the midrange right and under control, and in a far larger part because that equated to an extremely good sound. But Mu-8R is better!

Where the previous cables did very well in making the midrange focused and not too forward, the Mu-8R has even greater extension than before, with a tonality that matches the midrange well. And, like the Mu-7R before it, that midrange is precise, lyrical and rises out of a lower noise floor effortlessly.

It's a low-hash, low-noise, low distortion sound. While those are aspects of performance more commonly associated with active electronics in the signal path, it's surprising just how much, er, less can be had by playing audio components through a cable so electromagnetically invisible. I can't say for sure whether that's the action of the cable itself, or the action of the cable on the products to which it connects, but in a way that's academic; however it does it, it quietens the system.

Unzingy zing

There's a strange, yet refreshing and positive, experience you get from listening to the Allnic Audio Mu-8R cables; a zesty, zingy treble but one that isn't itself 'zingy' or bright. It's only there when called for. The Mu-7R was great because it did no harm; the Mu-8R does no harm to a more extended range of frequencies.

This remains a very neutral cable and one that helps other active

components 'catch' neutrality, in that it brings out the neutral in a component. However, it does this by not changing the character of the electronics, just by making them do less work and thereby do less damage.

I still maintain the balance of performance makes the Allnic Mu-8R an ideal partner for tube-based systems, but this is less clear cut as it was with its predecessor. Sure, Allnic Audio makes tube/valve amps and DACs and the combination of 'hollow state' electronics and ZL Technology cables remains extremely alluring, but with Mu-8R, 'alluring' increases.

There isn't a lot to dislike here. If you use cables as tone controls or filters, this not the cable for you. Also, if your view of cables is seen through a 'bright and beaty' tint, you'll probably want a cable that is more directed toward upper bass. However, like its predecessor it's leading edge delivery is excellent. But, it doesn't highlight this and some live for the highlights!

Allnic Audio's cables are not to be sniffed at. It's rare to think of a brand that achieves success both in the field of amp AND cable design, but Kang Su Park's brand is one of the rare exceptions. Naturally, the cables are an excellent match for Allnic Audio's electronics, but they go far further than that! +

Price and contact details

Mu-8R interconnects (RCA/XLR)
\$3,995/1m, \$300 per additional
0.5 metre

Manufacturer Allnic Audio

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Distributor Kevalin Audio

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