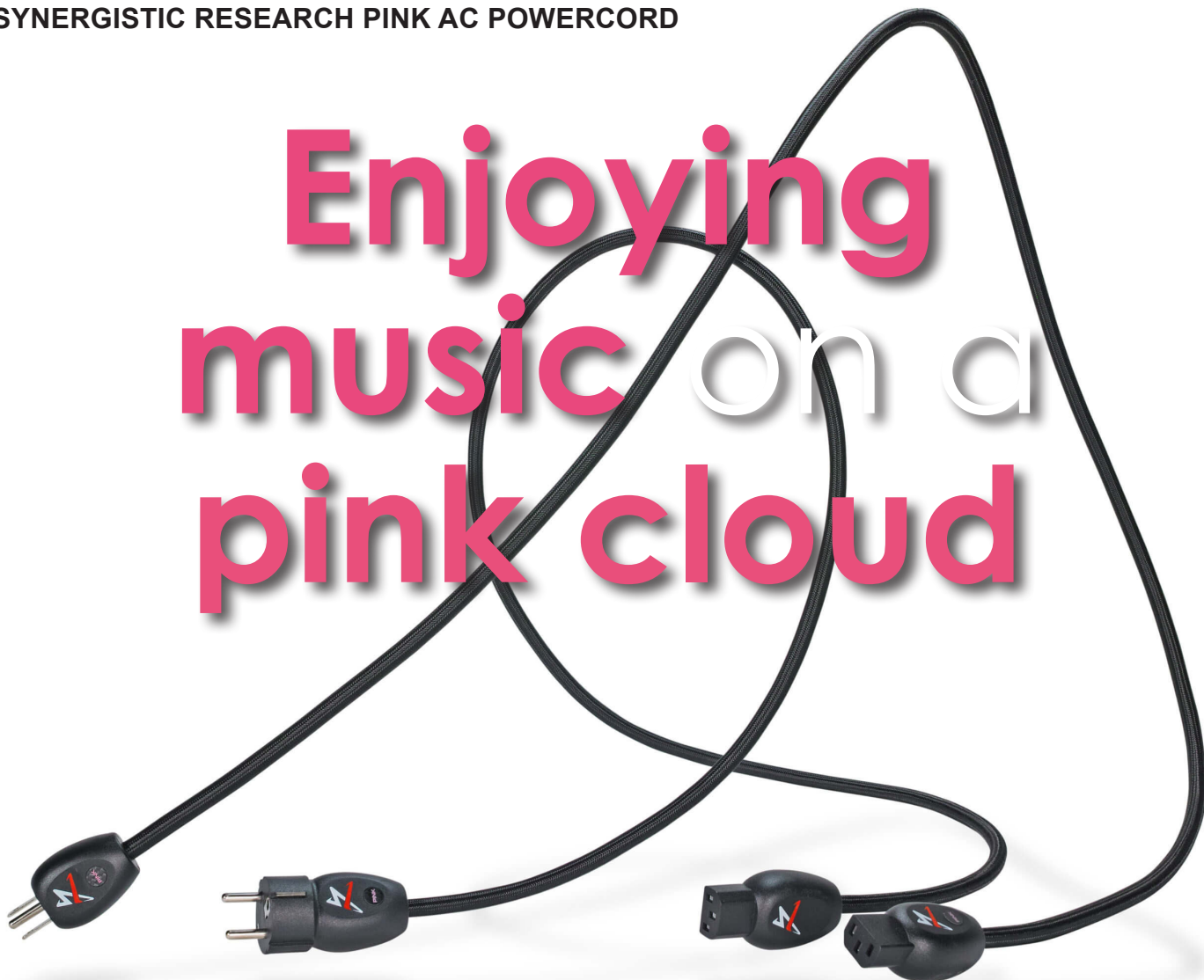


SYNERGISTIC RESEARCH PINK AC POWERCORD

Enjoying music on a pink cloud



I received the Synergistic Research Pink AC power cord from Kemp Elektronik for a review. It's an attractively positioned power cord made of the purest copper. This power cord cleverly uses carbon as a shielding material, ensuring that the current from the wall is delivered to your surround sound or hi-fi system with minimal interference.

When I took the entirely California-made power cords out of their packaging for a visual inspection, I noticed that they didn't feel too heavy. This is a welcome bonus when using compact, lightweight hifi components. The connectors are molded to the cables, something other cable manufacturers in this price range also do. The cables, just like the packaging they flew across the ocean in, look neat and clearly positioned higher, but definitely not over the top. If you prefer this, Synergistic Research also supplies these. Each Pink AC cable is packaged in a neat, yet understated cardboard box and includes a handwritten label with the production date and the initials of the quality controller.

This Synergistic Research Pink AC cable from the Pink Series feels great in the hand, with its modest cable dia-

meter and high flexibility. This also makes it much neater to conceal behind the set than the usual stiff, thumb-thick power cables. The cable is wrapped in a glossy black nylon jacket, giving it a clean appearance. Both connectors at either end are equipped with a carbon tuning disk bearing the name of the cable series, "Pink," printed in pink. When I integrate the cable into my set, I feel a slight resistance between the connectors and the power strip and the device. This is certainly not too tight and for sure not too loose either. In terms of look and feel, this power cable already makes an excellent impression.



Pink AC and the crucial role of carbon

It's no secret that carbon offers not only structural advantages but also electrical advantages. With these advantages in mind, Synergistic Research began developing their power products. The now much-discussed Pink Fuse is perhaps the manufacturer's most well-known tuning upgrade. The company then invested in the development of "cost no object" power cables that utilize previously developed production techniques. Additionally, new techniques were developed to optimally shield the power cable from end to end. Not price or exclusivity, but sound quality was always the guiding factor during development. Numerous versions followed one another after blind listening tests, finally arriving at the ultimate and tonally best-balanced power cable. Subsequently, the manufacturer scaled back the construction method to introduce cables with various price points in the Pink Series. Regardless of the model in this series, the manufacturer applies the same high-end technology to every cable.

The Pink AC is the affordable entry-level model in the Pink Series product line and leaves little to choose from. The power cords are only available in a length of one and a half meters. The power cord is entirely handcrafted, and the production process takes a full two hours. Internally, the power cord features three 2.08mm² copper conductors with a directional structure. The cable has a sheath made of Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer (EPDM). This is a synthetic rubber known for its durability, flexibility, and resistance to heat, ozone, and weathering. PTFE is used as the dielectric. The pure

copper connectors are gold-plated and soldered with 4% silver solder for optimal conductivity. The molded-on connectors have an SRX XL UEF Matrix Shield coating that incorporates Graphene to reduce the noise floor and any harshness in the sound reproduction. The connectors also feature a Pink Carbon Tuning Disk, which gives the cable the desired sound signature.

After the cable is finished, it receives a High Voltage Conditioning Treatment, a post-treatment with a pulsating signal of one million volts at various frequencies to modify the material structure of the wiring and pure copper connectors. According to the manufacturer, this creates molecular channels in the material structure, allowing electrons to move more freely, resulting in more low-level information in the music. This post-treatment is also applied to the manufacturer's Pink Fuses. A bit of a hocus-pocus? Some might certainly call it that. I have a more open mind. I first forget all the technical knowledge I've read about these cables, listen exclusively to performance differences in my set, and then record my own impressions.

A little controversy is never a bad thing

Yes, the effect of a power cord is a hotly debated topic for some. These people believe it's all in their head. However, most have since had positive experiences with a higher-quality power cord. I personally believe that changing something as simple as a power cord in the chain can have a very positive effect on the sound. However, the sum total of differences doesn't automatically equal an improvement, as I've learned over the years. So, I'm very curious about the performance my system will deliver when I replace my own wiring with the Pink AC power cord from Synergistic Research.

To get the best impression of the effect of this wiring, I received four units from importer Ronald Kemp. One from the wall socket to my power strip, and the other three from the power strip to the system. And I have to talk about this set. For this review, I'm not using my Bryston front-end combination from Canada, which I'm sure will produce noticeable differences. For this review,



I'm using my Denon AVC-A10H surround amplifier, one of the manufacturer's highest-ranking AV top models. This is a powerful integrated AV amplifier with a modular power amplification system, where each channel has its own mono amplifier module. The sound quality delivered by this AV amplifier, tuned at the Shirakawa factory, is certainly good, but in terms of finesse and refinement, it's on a different level than my trusted Bryston system. To what extent does the cable swap in this particular system produce an audible difference in performance? To be honest, my expectations are lower than with a high-end stereo system. I'll come back to whether this is justified later. This review is based exclusively on stereo listening tests. The front speakers have an active bass section and are driven full-range. I bypass all sound enhancements and tone controls with the Pure Direct function. I stream music albums with Qobuz Connect via HEOS. The only additional components are the Driade Flow 808 speaker cables from the amplifier to the speakers and the Bonn N8 network switch, designed for audio streaming, including a linear Forester power supply from Silent Angel. For listening to multichannel content, I also use a GoldenEar SuperCenter XL center channel speaker and two GoldenEar BRX monitor speakers for 5.2-channel sound. A beautiful AV setup that delivers a truly fantastic surround sound experience.

Listening without rose-colored glasses

When I play my first albums, I experience the very first sounds with a warm, effortless character and beautifully balanced bass. Compared to my own power cords, the music with these Pink AC power cords is presented with more tranquility and better separation of the instruments. The reproduction from the upper midrange and treble is somewhat tempered, making the entire sound more pleasant to the ears. Cymbals and hi-hats are freed from their sharp treble and placed a bit deeper. This gives them more texture, and you can also hear the force with which they are struck. Treble detail is nevertheless retained, and at the same time, I experience the important micro-details with much more ease than before. Voices

and vocals gain a sharper focus and a more central position in the phantom midrange. It's as if I'm sitting in an ideal listening triangle with these cables. Pleasant indeed. Thanks to the touch of added warmth, voices now also express sounds from the diaphragm, giving them more weight, authority, and realism. Snare drums here offer the more characteristic kettle sound, without losing any neutrality or impact when hitting the skin.

When I listen to the track "Learning to Fly" from Pink Floyd's 1987 album "A Momentary Lapse of Reason," I experience a wide and extremely open soundscape that builds neatly from the distant background towards the listening position. Vocals and electric guitar are perfectly positioned in the center of the soundscape, with the backing vocals and keyboards remaining well back in the background. At the three-minute mark, a flanger seems to be used to shift the phase and balance of the vocals in this section of the song. It now has so much more energy, and I wonder if this Qobuz version of this album is perhaps secretly a polished remaster.

When I put on the track "Harridan" from Porcupine Tree's album "Closure / Continuation," I experience a corresponding boost in performance. The lowest notes of the bass drum and bass guitar combine to create a nice energetic boost in the low end, and this track delivers so much of this beauty. The snare drum sounds a bit muffled from the midrange and is soon spatially embraced by the other musical elements. All of this creates a truly open and expansive soundscape, with voices and vocals woven into the mix far into the background. The layering, razor-sharp focus, and increased depth make the set seem to audibly dissect the album. The speed and almost analog feel of this streamed album make listening to it a delightful experience.





My opinion

One of the components often overlooked when purchasing a new system is the cabling. While investments are often made in good speaker cables and interconnects, the power cable is often seen as an afterthought. This is a shame, because you'll be amazed at the difference a high-quality power cable can make. During the review of this Pink AC power cable from Synergistic Research, I not only discovered that a high-quality power cable can significantly enhance the sound quality of a premium hifi system, but also that a high-quality AV component excels at stereo music reproduction. With these power cables, I experience a delicate tonal balance and, last but not least, a significant improvement in the soundstage produced by my AV amplifier. The cabling adds more depth and feeling, significantly increasing the realism and immersion level. The tamed character in the top end takes some getting used to, but when I listen more critically and for a longer period, I experience more nuance and finesse with the same level of detail. The complete absence of harshness due to the increased warmth in the midrange is a game-changer. Thanks to the increased transparency, layering, and the razor-sharp focus with which the soundstage is created, I now effortlessly pick out all the elements in even the most complex musical pieces.

Just let it sink in that I'm not playing with a system costing over €60,000 this time, but with a high-quality AV system

with a significantly more affordable price tag. This is something I often forget during my own listening sessions. Apparently, with high-quality AV components, there are still significant gains to be made in sound quality. I hear differences that I never imagined could add so much to the hidden sound quality. So, I don't view a power cable as a final item in the investment, but rather as an important part of the power supply—say, the first winding of the transformer of the high-quality audio component.

Conclusion

With the Pink AC power cord from Synergistic Research's Pink Series, the manufacturer offers a flexible power cord that allows your system to extract the finest detail from your music albums. A simple cable upgrade will deliver a tighter soundstage, with more openness, sensitivity, and enhanced accentuation. The investment will continue to amaze you for years to come. Yes, Synergistic Research did their homework perfectly. Highly recommended.

Harro Tillema

PRICE
SYNERGISTIC RESEARCH PINK AC SERIES € 219,- (1.5 m)
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