

And Cavi Sounds Sexier than *Cables*, Too, by Ken Kessler



Despite my avowed hatred of cables (see the [August 23, 2005, eNewsletter](#)), it is my duty as your faithful reporter to alert you to new wires of interest. Throw in such words as *hand-made*, *affordable*, and *chic*, and you can see why my interest was piqued in the new and terribly named Yter Audio Cables. And if I tell you that these cables are Italian, you'll understand that the use of *chic* may not be so farfetched. There are two other words to consider: *credibility* and *heritage*, for—surprisingly—this all-new cable possesses both.

Because one would assume that credibility and heritage are acquired only as byproducts of long experience and the passage of time, it should be revealed at the outset that the Yter cables (I won't even ask what *Yter* means) come from an impeccable source: [Franco Serblin](#), of Sonus Faber fame. As I learned at Milan's TOP Audio show in September, Serblin is now in a state of semiretirement, having concluded his life's work with the sublime Stradivari Homage loudspeaker for Sonus Faber. While still connected to the firm, he has decided to branch out into another field, this time with his other son-in-law, Massimiliano Favella. (Cesare Bevilacqua, president of Sonus Faber, is also married to one of Franco's daughters.)

Favella's background is in metallurgy, Serblin's in audio. You know what happened next. Serblin had been experimenting with wire for some time, and Favella's knowledge has helped him realize the wiring he's always wanted to employ over a quarter-century of designing speakers. As it turns out, Serblin's last great speaker design (which is not to say that he's given up speakers entirely) used internal wiring that so captivated him, he tried it *outside* the speaker.

"While designing the [Stradivari Homage](#), I wanted to use internal wiring which was not merely derived from the telecommunication industry, solutions based on radio-frequency theory. Instead, I wanted wiring designed to handle wide-bandwidth frequencies and high power levels. So Massimiliano and I sought a new conductor based on this premise: the transfer of the audio signal from amplifier to speaker, especially at extremely low levels,

depends more on the physical structure of the metal than on the absolute value of conductivity in the wire."

Serblin and Favella have developed the Well-Tempered Argentum Alloy to fulfill their desire to "intervene at a metallurgic level to obtain order and homogeneity of the conductor's crystalline structure, thus providing greater compliance of the music signal within the signal path." It combines the elements silver and palladium through a new three-phase process of fusion and melting, and the resultant wire has no sharp edges and a "Gaussian" shape. The company controls every stage of the wire's manufacture, from melting to drawing to, finally, construction. *All* wires are entirely handmade by Massimiliano Favella at the [Yter Laboratorium](#).

So far, only two Yter cable models are offered, and neither Serblin nor Favella suggests that new models will follow in the foreseeable future, due to the laws of supply and demand: Favella can make only so many per week. The speaker wire is available in standard lengths of 3m (about 10') and 5m (about 16'). Its single silver-palladium conductor is encased in a high-density polymer dielectric and terminated with banana plugs of the same alloy. The matching interconnect, in a standard 1m (39") length, is constructed identically but terminated in silver phono connectors made by WBT.

While I want to avoid turning this into a quasi-review, suffice it to say that I was entirely seduced: Sonus Faber users will recognize the firm's finesse and delicacy. Physically, the cables are highly flexible, eschewing the whole naval-hawser macho bullshit. I loved that, too. They're positively svelte. And when I learned that the prices were, at worst, manageable—hundreds of euros rather than thousands—I decided to add them to my review system.

Franco Serblin said that talks were underway with a US distributor, still to be appointed at press time. If you want a pedigreed cable at a sane price that doesn't require a stevedore to bend it into position, investigate the Yters.

I almost forgot the chic part: The Yter wires come supplied in utterly gorgeous, black leather portfolios that are so Italian it hurts. The best surprise of all emerged from a third, tiny wallet: a set of Yter's fabulous silver banana-to-spade converters, which come with a special tool for spreading the banana's socket end if it's too loose *. They've thought of everything. I guess we have to look on the Yter wires as the Armani suit of the cable world.

* THE BANANA-TO-SPADE CONVERTERS ARE AN OPTIONAL ACCESSORY. THE TOOL TO SPREAD THE BANANA CONNECTORS IS INCLUDED WITH ALL SETS OF SPEAKER WIRES.