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Totally neutral with no apologies

Funk Tonstudioteknik's appearance at the "High End 2006" trade fair was totally characteristic: In his humble manner, Mr. Funk himself ("We never develop our products until they sound 'good enough' – instead we optimize the technical parameters to achieve the very limit of what is possible.") presented the deceptively modest products from the Berlin-based manufacturers: preamplifiers, cables, signal splitters and various other electronic gadgets that have many fans beyond the studio scene.

Starting with the dwarfish Funk LAP-1 preamplifier and, by the latest, with the massive MTX Monitor – both of which are now available in versions with even better specifications – I've been impressed by their overall sense of neutrality. The same applies to their A-62 RCA cable, which later evolved into the B-62 that sounds even better than its predecessor. More precisely, this new cable affects the audio signals even less than the A-62. The BS-2 is Funk's definition of 'state-of-the-art'. Equipped with double counter-rotating shields (inside copper, outside silver), these unbalanced

Extremely good data and sounds perfect: Funk's newest NF-cable BS-2.

cables provide effective protection for delicate audio signals – such as those originating from phonograph cartridges – against high-frequency interference. To prevent any negative effects on the signal, the impedance of the inner conductor is extremely low and the inner conductor is insulated from the shield by a low-loss dielectric material with an extremely low capacitance of just 42 picofarads. Plainly, the specifications of the BS-2 are excellent. Of course, this is not surprising considering its providence from diehard measurement technicians. This is a company that does not shy from presenting technical specifications in a brochure.

How does the BS-2 sound? Actually, it doesn't. Fully open, transparent, neutral-to-the-core – these are a few of the adjectives that best describe the "audiophile" characteristics of this cable. As a consequence of their extreme neutrality, the BS-2 allows us to hear extremely fine audio nuances. For instance, minute details from recording rooms and tone colours are revealed to an exceptional degree.

The dynamic range from extremely quiet to resoundingly loud seems to be infinite. Rarely before have I experienced the last movement from Mahler's Third Symphony so emotionally. And all this despite a cable designed merely to afford the best in measurement specifications. But in fact this is what is to be learned from the BS-2. Namely, that deepest emotions are never aroused from pretentious effects, but are instead nurtured on neutral ground.

Best of all, this experience will not cost you an arm and a leg. You can purchase these cables from Funk Tonstudioteknik for just 86 euros per stereo meter at Funk Tonstudioteknik (0049 30 6115123). *Reinhold Martin*

Funk Tonstudioteknik BS-2

Price (1 meter stereo) 86 €
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