

Analog Interlink Reviews, Power Cable Reviews, Speaker Cable Reviews

Jorma Audio Unity Interlink, Power Cable, and Speaker Cable



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Review organized by Marc Loubeau / Prestige Audio Diffusion

Review sample kindly supplied by HVP Audio

Retail prices per pair in the Netherlands and France, incl. VAT:

Unity Interlinks RCA/XLR 1.0m – 3.150 euro (as reviewed)

Extra length per 0.5m – 400 euro

Unity Speaker Cables Spade/Banana 2.5m – 5.750 euro (as reviewed)

More/Less length per 0.5m – 500 euro

Unity Power Cable 1.5m – 2.000 euro

Extra length per 0.5m – 250 euro

Foreword



Jorma Audio has been a long-time personal favorite cable manufacturer. Starting with their entry-level products, I instantly liked the No.3 speaker cables and kept them in my system. When I later reviewed their successor, the Trinity speaker cables, they were also instant successes and I used them as references for many years until they were ultimately superseded by other cables that worked more synergistically in my system. Meanwhile, the Jorma AES/EBU and digital RCA cables remain my favorite digital cables and I use them

exclusively. At some point, I heard the Jorma Statement power cables in another person's system, and that made a lasting impression. At close to 10,000 euros for a usable length and needing many such cables for my system, however, I never dared audition them at home.

When I was asked to review the Marten Parker Trio loudspeakers, Dutch Distributor HVP Audio also delivered a trio of Jorma cables to use with the speakers. As I found during that review, these cables turned out not only to work superbly synergistically with the Parker Trios, but they also proved a smashing success by further elevating the overall quality of the system to beyond levels that I was able to reach so far. As such, I felt these cables deserved their own review.

Unity XLR interlink

The Unity interlink is powered by technology from the higher-tier Origo level, elevating it far beyond its roots as the first production series. The cables are crafted with fine materials including 99.999999% pure Copper (3x 0.75mm²) and transparent PTFE (Teflon) with tin-plated 96% effective RFI and EMI copper shielding wrapped in multi-threaded ceramic fiber filler underneath a PET outer sleeve, finished with a distinctive maple shell at the cable's destination ends.



Unity Speaker Cable

Like the interlink, the Unity speaker cable is powered by technology from Origo, elevating it far beyond its roots as the first production series. The cables are crafted with fine materials including 99.999999% pure Copper conductors (2x 4 pc of 0.75 mm for a total Gauge of 2 x 3 mm² in transparent Teflon. The cables are shielded from RFI and EMI with an effectivity of 96%.



Unity Power Cable

The Unity power cables are crafted with fine materials including 99.999999% pure Copper and transparent PTFE (Teflon) with tin-plated 96% effective RFI and EMI copper shielding wrapped in multi-threaded ceramic fiber filler underneath a PET outer sleeve, finished with a distinctive maple shell at the cable's destination ends.



Review Context

The cables were initially listened to in the main system that consists of the CH Precision C1.2 DAC, CH Precision L1 preamplifier, and CH Precision A1.5 power amp. Digital sources include the Grimm MU1 and Antipodes K50, both running Roon, and the Aqua La Diva M2 CD Transport. This system is normally flanked by Magico S1 MkIIs but following the previous review, the Marten Parker Trios were initially also still involved. My default reference interlinks and speaker cables are Driade Flow Link Reference 808, Mad Scientist Black Magic, and Driade Flow Reference 808.



The Sound of Jorma

Marten loudspeakers use Jorma cable inside, and as one might expect (or hope) there is indeed a superb synergy between Jorma cables and Marten loudspeakers. In my experience so far, Jorma Cables are exceptional in combining superb transparency and resolution with a natural, fluid, and unforced presentation. As it happens, Marten Loudspeakers possess a very similar balance, resulting in a further enhanced expression of these aspects.

Having owned the entry-level No.3 and Trinity speaker cables, currently using the AES/EBU and Digital RCA cables on a daily basis, and having reviewed the Origo interlinks and speaker cables as well as the USB Reference and Ethernet Reference cables, I felt that I had a decent handle on the performance of the various performance tiers. So far, my impression was that the entry-level cables provide a fast, neutral, and slightly lean presentation while the Origo line provided a rather more luxurious presentation with more warmth and smoothness. The AES/EBU and RCA digital cables lean toward the former while the USB and Ethernet cables lean more toward the latter.

Armed with the aforementioned personal Jorma experience, I was expecting the Unity range to offer a sound similar to that of the Origo range, from which they inherited some design features. As it would turn out, I was both right and wrong!



Listening – Unity Power

To kick off my experiences with the Unity Power Cable, I started with the CH Precision C1.2 DAC while the Marten Parker Trio speakers were still connected. Normally powered with a GigaWatt LC-2 EVO, the change to the Jorma Unity Power cable retained the level of resolution and transparency while adding a pleasant increase in air and refinement, a sweet and mellow, and particularly liquid and well-saturated midrange, and a warm, smooth bass. Powered with the Jorma, the DAC's presentation was now pretty much the opposite of what it was with the LC-2 EVO. Nevertheless, the cable does not reduce transparency and while it adds a good dose of richness and saturation, it also does not color the sound. Hardness in recordings is reduced and dryness does not get a chance. Conversely, the GigaWatt can verge on the lean side and it can exacerbate dryness but it also encourages propulsion and expression. On the other hand, the Jorma has a gentler, more free-breathing, not quite as lively and dramatic but arguably more organic approach.

For my next comparison, I moved down one CH component in the rack, to the L1 preamplifier. The L1 has a leaner delivery than the C1 DAC and for that reason, it is normally powered with a GigaWatt PowerSync ULTRA. This cable has a very different build than the LC-2 EVO and a fuller and smoother sound whilst retaining a crisp and energetic stance.

Swapping from the PowerSync ULTRA to the Jorma Unity, I was expecting more similarities than differences but to my surprise, the effect was even more pronounced with the preamp than with the DAC. While it sounded really sweet and refined, I found myself longing for more expression and excitement.

As always, any cable's success ties in with the match that is made in a system. At this point, I should note that CH Precision equipment may be known primarily for its ultimate neutrality but it is also incredibly refined, gently sweet, and never hard or edgy.

Given that the Jorma Unity power cable is also highly refined, lush, and just a bit polite, I think the match with the likewise gentle and refined L1 pulls the sound a little too much in one direction for my system and taste. But my personal preference aside, I would venture a guess that unless one seeks a very smooth and relaxing presentation, the Parker Trio loudspeakers probably also benefit from more lively and expressive cables.

Interestingly, I also vividly recall hearing the Statement power cables which did not at all sound euphonic. Based on my experiences with the Unity power cable, and knowing that Jorma's various performance tiers have deviating sonic operating points ranging from tight and lean and tight to lush and sweet, it was tempting to conclude that the Unity range verges toward the sound of the Origo range. But as I was about to learn, that assumption would turn out to be incorrect.

Listening – Unity XLR Interlink

With the Marten speakers still in the system, the Unity Interlink made a superb impression right away. Used in place of the Driade Flow Link Reference 808 and connected between the C1.2 DAC and L1 preamp, the Unity sounded simultaneously more robust and more articulate, while remaining propulsive, expressive, and dynamic. In fact, the Jorma was *more* articulate as well as *more* expressive! Clearly, I was wrong in assuming a certain sound for the entire Unity range.



To my further astonishment, the Unity XLR interlink managed to sound earthier and more grounded, and more realistic, while remaining as refined and free-flowing as the Driade cable. The latter is more light-footed and remains a little airier in the upper treble but both provide an essentially neutral, natural, and very linear rendition of anything you play. Perhaps the Driade *appears* slightly more transparent but I'm not sure if that is induced by its slightly leaner tonal balance. In any case, both cables refrain from imposing any particular character on the sound. Nevertheless, there was an additional quality to the Jorma's delivery that was hard to pin down.

Even if both cables were admirably well-balanced and equally transparent to the source, I felt that the Jorma was creating a more vivid and convincing rendition of the performers being in the room, playing real instruments.

Even within the first minutes of the first track that I played, it dawned on me that the Unity interlink was something extraordinary. Of course, I played more tracks and swapped back and forth more times than I can count, but my preference for the Jorma cable only got further cemented. Sure enough, there was a particularly strong system synergy with the Unity interlink, CH equipment, and the Marten speakers.



Listening – Unity Speaker Cable

Just as with the interlinks, mere seconds after connecting the Unity Speaker Cables, they instantly felt right at home. Everything simply “clicked” into place. Just like the interlink, the speaker cable combines sonic aspects that usually stand on their own and often make a cable lean either one way or another. But the Unity speaker cable manages a rare delicate balance that leans in no particular direction yet also manages to inject the music with a highly realistic tonal shading while avoiding sounding voluptuous or thick, let alone fat.

Its bass is really superb: fast, articulate, robust, and neither fat nor lean, and the cables allow the deepest bass to develop more convincingly. Meanwhile, the cable has resolution equal to the best cables I’ve heard while avoiding sounding lean, dry, or analytical. And it has all the delicacy and refinement that one may crave without sacrificing dynamic impact. Okay, so the Unity speaker cables are superbly balanced, but that does not necessarily mean that they are also enjoyable, emotionally captivating, or that they can party. Well, trust me, they are, they sure are, and they sure can.



When I first listened to the Trinity speaker cable it was a solid improvement over the No.3 that I used before that, and as a consequence, it became my favorite cable for the next years to come.



But now listening to the Trinity again after the Unity, it is very clear that we've taken a few steps down in the product catalog. The Trinity sounds considerably less crisp and robust, less precise, a little veiled, and less acoustically convincing. In a word, it is less expressive and less realistic. In all fairness, the Unity is positioned two levels above the Trinity and costs more than double, but the difference is sonically abundantly clear. And that is precisely how it should be. A word of caution: don't listen to the Unity if the budget only allows for the Trinity!



Driade Flow Reference 808 Speaker Cables worked wonderfully well with the Marten Parker Trio, lending them fast pacing and great transparency. But there was an extra special synergy and naturalness when using Jorma Unity speaker cables

Depending entirely on what's played, the Unity speaker cable can sound smooth, fluid, forgiving, or rough, raw, and even dry, just as the recording prescribes. And these differences are larger than with my favorite speaker cable in the more attainable price class, the Driade Flow Reference 808 which, by comparison, is leaner, and airier. The Driade has a very pleasing openness and is also highly refined but it is tonally less richly saturated, less organic, and less revealing of textures. All that is only fair given the large disparity in price but it did give me pause, as the Driade did outperform the Trinity speaker cable earlier. My other favorite speaker cable in a higher price range, the Mad Scientist Black Magic, achieves similar solidity, sonority, tonal saturation, and very realistic textures, and for these qualities, it remains an exceptional cable, but it can't keep up with the Unity in terms of transparency, delicacy, refinement, resolution, and air.

Neutral and Natural

The Unity speaker cables and interlinks really are as neutral as they come while craftily avoiding ever tipping over to a more technical delivery. I suspect they manage this by sticking with copper conductors and not using any precious metal platings. Still, there must be more to this. For instance, the geometry and other materials used in the construction of the cables. I would say the Unity power cable has a distinctive copper sound but I cannot say the same about the interlinks and speaker cables. To my ears, the Unity cables are exceedingly natural. There is neither exaggeration nor beautifying, no polishing, and no added sparkle. But very importantly, nothing is taken away, either! There's very little in the way of overlaid character and no feeling of any warmth

or gravy being injected as some cables do. And yet, Unity provides timbres and textures in a well-saturated and very realistic manner. Well done, very well done indeed.



Synergy

Given the affiliation with Jorma cable being used in Marten speakers, one might assume a natural synergy but as I have sometimes come across, this is not a guarantee. In this case, however, as could be read above, the cables worked absolutely synergistically with the Marten Parker Trios.

But I was in for another surprise, as the cables' superb qualities were not limited to the combination with the Marten loudspeakers. As soon as I moved my Magicos back in position and connected them with the Unity speaker cables, the Unity interlink and speaker cables turned out not only to work superbly synergistically with the Parker Trios but also proved a smashing success by further elevating the overall quality of the entire system.

Really, I thought while listening, are there no downsides to these cables? Try as I might, but no amount of swapping and comparing could unveil anything askew. All that was left for me was to conclude that these cables were not to leave my system again.

Conclusion

I've not heard the entire range of Jorma cables but based on my experiences so far, it seems evident that the Unity range is the sweet spot. The Unity Interlinks and Speaker Cables work superbly synergistically not only with Marten Parker Trios, but also prove a smashing success by further elevating the overall quality of my entire system with the Magico S1 MkII's to beyond levels that I was able to reach so far.

They may not be the bargain of the century, but sonically, they deliver in spades. Never say never, but given their marvelous balance of virtues, I have a feeling that it will be very hard to further improve on them without spending a small fortune.

As it follows, I could not very well let these cables leave my system again. Effective immediately, the Unity Interlink and Speaker Cables are my new references and well-deserving of a HFA Favorite badge.

