

Anyone who has ever seen a botched handover in the 4x400-meter relay final knows what can go wrong at the crucial moment. Wolfgang B. Thörner, CEO of *WBT-Industrie GmbH, Germany* (<https://www.wbt.de/english.html>), has set himself the task of perfecting the handover of the signals in a hi-fi chain. With his latest coup, he has come a long way closer to this goal: he has developed an elaborate process called "PlasmaProtect™" with which he refines connectors. ▶

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1924: Hirschmann develops the banana plug

around 1940: RCA introduces the RCA plug

from 1950: Definition of DIN plug shapes

Photography: Ingo Schulz, FIDELITY Media GmbH

To do this, he converts gold into gas and forces it to deposit atom by atom in a wafer-thin, extremely smooth and indestructible layer on the plug with strong magnets. Beforehand, no less than five cleaning processes are required to prepare the parts for treatment. Thus it succeeds: the perfect handover!



1985: WBT is founded

1988: The first WBT RCA plug with crimp technology

1998: WBT presents the sandwich spade

2008: The nextgen™ series receives banana plugs

2019: PlasmaProtect™ becomes series-ready

1983: Toshiba introduces the optical Toslink connector

1986: The first RCA socket WBT-200

1996: WBT introduces the RCA plug WBT-0147

2003: Start of the nextgen series

2012: The nextgen™ series enters the 2nd generation