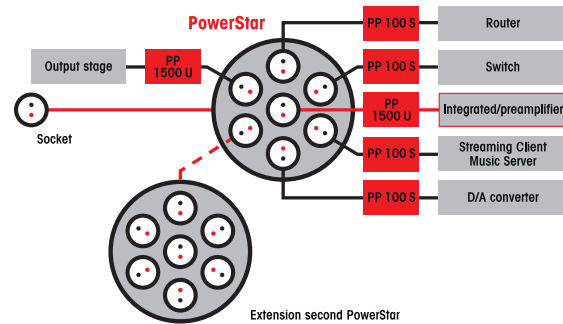


Ampère S



Mains cables are becoming increasingly important for the sound of the music system, simply because mains interference is increasing due to digitalisation and power converters, e.g. for solar systems. It's a good thing that my house is surrounded on three sides by solar panels with outputs in the 100kW range. Good prerequisites, then, to get to the bottom of the disturbances and develop suitable countermeasures.

As Maxwell U and Faraday U made such clear and surprising progress in the quality of music reproduction possible, it was obvious to take another close look at the mains cables. The idea of achieving a greater filter effect without any disadvantages in dynamics and thus reproducing the music more vividly, more colourfully, more naturally was appealing to me. The goal was to hear more of the recording situation and to be closer to the artists thanks to fewer artefacts. To hear the finest shades of tone colours, accentuations, temporal stretches that make an interpretation comprehensible and coherent and thus arouse emotions.

The exciting questions here: Would the „tools“ that helped develop Maxwell and Faraday also be applicable to the new Ampère power cable? And how great would the progress be?

The basic requirements for a mains cable are clear: the transport of current pulses* with as little loss as possible in order to maintain the dynamics of the reproduction. The lowest possible stray field is to be aimed for in order not to interfere with components or signal cables, and the highest possible interference suppression in order to prevent the music signal from being influenced by high-frequency artefacts from the mains. Unfortunately, these requirements contradict each other in that optimising one requirement with conventional solution approaches is at the expense of the other. For example, shielding the cable can reduce the stray field, but inevitably leads to losses in dynamics due to eddy current losses. Ferrites in the cable can increase the filter effect, but unfortunately, in my experience, reduce the dynamics of the reproduction and the naturalness of the timbres.

An unsolvable task? No, because we have to find other solutions. For example, we do not reduce the stray field with a shielding braid, but by cleverly interlacing partial conductors. This also reduces the magnetic leakage, which a static shield cannot reduce. In addition, with the appropriate choice of insulating and damping materials, the filtering effect can be increased and the dynamics of the reproduction are not curtailed. With the techniques I have developed over decades, such as CRC or CDC, and the optimisation of conductors, cross-sections, dielectrics and structures, I already have a wealth of experience at my disposal.

The new Ampère mains cable goes beyond its predecessor, the PowerCord, in that the mixture of elements and the partly mechanical, partly handcrafted production allows for even further optimisation. And this is clearly audible. There is the natural midrange, colourful, smooth and without any graininess. Or the very clean, clear high frequencies and the bass definition. For me personally, the most important thing is the clearly more agile reproduction, the more natural settling and decay of tones, the fine dynamic differentiation that lets you dive deeper into the musical events.

In conclusion, I would like to let Jörg Dames from fairaudio have his say: Audioplan solutions are appreciated by us, as shown not least by some of our reviews, but the Ampère S pass as a particularly emphatic listening recommendation, especially at this price. Audioplan seems to have climbed something like another evolutionary step with its new mains cables.

* Note: Practically all hi-fi devices do not draw current evenly, for example sine-shaped, but in short pulses. Incidentally, this is again a source of interference, as the pulse-shaped currents generate a high-frequency spectrum.

Technical Data	Ampère S
Mains voltage	230 V ~
Test voltage	2500 V
Current carrying capacity	20 A
Construction	Nested partial conductors, 2.5mm ²
Damping	with Audioplan CRC and CDC technology
Length	1.5m standard, other lengths on order
Connections	Schuko, US, C13, C19 in pure copper, other types on request