

IN TEST

HMS
Energia SL/V

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Test verdict
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Recommendation

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HMS Energia SL/V Power Cable

THE EASY WAY TO BETTER SOUND

Optimized
Conductor Properties

*More balanced
and relaxed*

The HMS Energia SL/V is the entry-level power cable from the Leverkusen-based specialist in power filtering and conductor technology, HMS.



HMS Energia SL/V Power Cable

The Easy Way to Better Sound

Anyone looking to improve the performance of their audio system should start at the very beginning: with the power supply. Even a high-quality power cable can already deliver a noticeable sonic improvement. We tested this with the HMS Energia SL/V — with remarkable results.

What can one or two meters of specialized cable really achieve in an audio system when the electricity has already traveled many kilometers from the power plant to the wall outlet? This question always arises when discussing high-quality power cables. The answer lies within the audio system itself, whose performance can indeed be improved by a quality power cable: the components hinder their own potential due to internally generated interference. The devices also form a network in terms of power, as they are connected together via a power strip. On this strip are source components such as a turntable — devices with low and relatively stable power consumption. On the other hand, amplifiers are also connected, which have significantly higher and constantly fluctuating power demands. These fluctuations are caused by the music itself and the set

volume level also plays a role. All of this affects the power supply — and therefore the power cables delivering it.

The Influence of the Power Cable

The fluctuating power consumption of the amplifier causes a corresponding variation in voltage drop within its power cable. This reduces the amplifier's agility and therefore its dynamic capabilities. In addition, there are differences in mains voltage. For source components, which have low and stable power consumption, the voltage drop in the power cable is smaller. This difference in voltage drop creates a potential difference. Such potential differences are immediately equalized across all ground connections in the system — including the signal paths. These compensating currents then introduce interference that degrades sound quality. To prevent this, the power cable and its connectors must be optimized for ideal electrical behavior and minimal losses: as low resistance as possible, and above all, low inductance. All these relationships were identified by physicist Hans M. Strassner as



On one side, the cable is terminated with a protective contact plug. Thanks to the soft copper-plated and gold-plated contacts, the contact surface is maximized and contact resistance is minimized.

an experienced measurement engineer, researched these relationships and founded HMS based on this expertise. For decades, the company from Leverkusen has been a leading specialist in conductor and power filtering technology, offering a comprehensive portfolio of cables and filters. From this expertise comes our test candidate: the HMS Energia SL/V power cable.

Optimized Conductor Properties ...

This cable is part of the "Energia SL" series, forming the foundation of HMS's power supply concept for component power cables. The Energia SL is available in various lengths and can also be custom-sized if required. Different versions are also available: "SL/O" stands for the standard version, while "SL/V" indicates the inclusion of surge protection. An additional "V" in the product name means the cable is equipped with soft copper-plated and gold-plated connectors. Our HMS Energia SL/V therefore represents the most fully equipped version in this cable series. The cable is designed with a large conductor cross-section to achieve low resistance and particularly low inductance, while also providing effective high-frequency damping. To achieve this, the cable has a nine-conductor structure. The phase and neutral each consist of four individually insulated conductors, resulting in a total cross-section of three square millimeters. These conductors are cross-twisted around a central earth conductor with a cross-section of 3.2 square millimeters. This twisting reduces inductive resistance to a quarter of that of the individual conductors.

... and Minimized Contact Resistance

The material used throughout is OFCu, meaning pure oxygen-free copper, which offers extremely high electrical conductivity. The nine conductors in this multi-core construction are surrounded by a braided shield that protects against electrical and magnetic fields, which can also distort the mains voltage. Mechanical protection is provided by the outer jacket made of halogen-free polyurethane. This material is extremely wear-resistant and also offers high mechanical strength, impact resistance, and weather resistance. This robustness continues in the plug-



Model: **HMS Energia SL/V**
Product Category: Power Cable
Price: - 1,00 m: 326,00 €
- 1,50 m :358,00 €
- 2,00 m: 390,00 €
- Each additional Meter: 64,00 €

Warranty: 5 years upon registration

Finish: black

Distributor: **HMS Elektronik**
+492171734007
www.hmselectronik.de

Dimensions (HxWxD): - Outer diameter: 9 mm
Length: 1.00 m / 1.50 m / 2.00 m and custom lengths
Weight: 0.46 kg (2.0 m version)
Construction: 9 individual conductors (4 x P, 4 x N, 1 x PE)
in cross-linked twisted configuration, textile braid, shielding braid, PU outer jacket

Conductor Cross-section: - P, N: 4 x 0,75 = 3,0 mm²
- PE: 3,2 mm²

Conductor material: OFCu (oxygen-free copper)

Connector Contacts: soft- coppered and gold-plated

Outer jacket: PU (Polyurethan)

Minimum bending radius: 70 mm

Connector / Coupling: Schuko plug (CEE 7/4)
IEC connector (IEC-60320 C15A)
Alternatively: 2-pole device connector without ground (IEC-60320 C7, Furutech FI-8N G)

Scope of delivery:

- HMS Energia SL/V -
Warranty certificate
- Transport case

Rating

Recommendation

Price/performance: appropriate

construction here. HMS places great emphasis on achieving the lowest possible contact resistance. In the Energia SL/V, this is drastically minimized through the soft copper-plated and gold-plated contact surfaces — according to HMS, by up to a factor of two hundred. The precious metal serves as corrosion protection, but also adapts optimally due to its malleability to the mating contact in the wall socket or the inlet of the HiFi component. This results in a significantly larger contact surface and therefore a much lower contact resistance.

Key Feature: Phase Marking for Correct Connection

Out of curiosity, we opened the connectors. This reveals exemplary mechanical construction and outstanding manufacturing quality — both for the protective contact plug and the IEC connector. Optionally, the Energia SL/V can also be supplied with a two-pole connector without ground. In any case, the highlight is the phase marking that HMS applies to all its power products. Plugs, connectors, and sockets are marked with a white dot on the side where the phase is present. The reason: correct phase connection of all devices can lead to audible improvements. Although, in an AC system, it should theoretically not matter how the plug is inserted, there is in fact a difference — depending on which winding end of the device's power transformer is connected to the phase. When connected correctly, potential differences and compensating currents between ground and earth are minimized. This reduces possible sonic degradation, ranging from hum to reduced clarity and dynamics.



On the connector — just like on the plug — the phase is marked with a white dot.

Integrated Surge Protection

In addition to all sound-enhancing features, the HMS Energia SL/V also includes integrated surge protection. It protects connected components or power strips from



This "capsule" contains the surge protection integrated into the "SL/V" version of the power cable. This protector safeguards the connected components against voltage spikes.

overvoltages. This is achieved using a varistor, a voltage-dependent resistor. It reacts within an extremely short time — we are talking about just a few nanoseconds. Unlike a fuse, this response is non-destructive. However, the term "lightning protection" should be understood realistically: even a lightning strike at a moderate distance is a case for the household fuse system. The varistor, on the other hand, is effective with lower energy input — for example when a lightning strike at a greater distance causes potential equalization through the power grid, or when secondary effects of a lightning strike generate transient voltage and current spikes in the network that are significant but short-lived. These overvoltages can be blocked by the varistor element. For this reason, the black "capsule" containing the surge protection is positioned at the beginning of the cable, directly behind the Schuko plug where it connects to the wall outlet.

The HMS Energia SL/V in Practical Use

What does the HMS Energia SL/V actually achieve in practice? To identify possible differences, we first set up our system without the test cable. From the wall outlet, a standard power cable runs to a high-quality power strip. Connected to it, using very basic power cords, are our components: the SACD/Blu-ray player Oppo UDP-203 and the integrated amplifier Hegel H360. Connected to this is a pair of Audio Physic Midex 2 loudspeakers. With this setup, we start "Rainy Night in Georgia" by George Benson from the album Songs and Stories. The classic already sounds very good: the drums have punch, the bass has a pleasing fullness, and the other instruments in the large-scale arrangement are reproduced convincingly — from frontman Benson, performing as both singer and guitarist, to the supporting elements behind him on the well-structured stage, including a second guitar, a string ensemble, and keyboards.

The Soundstage Expands

Now we replace the amplifier's power cable. Instead of the standard off-the-shelf cable, the Hegel H360 is now powered by the Energia SL/V. The difference is remarkable: John Smith opens the track with a short guitar



Correct phase connection: The HMS power cable indicates the phase with a white dot; on our amplifier, we have also marked the phase contact with a dot.

Right from the intro, even these first few notes have noticeably greater presence and immediacy. The same applies to the two hi-hat strikes that introduce the piece, played by drummer John Robinson positioned further back. When the full band joins in, the effect is striking: the instruments now have more space between them. The soundstage becomes deeper, resulting in a fuller and more relaxed spatial presentation, as the musical performance no longer feels compressed. In addition, the instruments are clearer to distinguish. Bobby Sparks benefits most directly from this: his organ, which previously blended smoothly into the overall sound, is now clearly recognizable as a Hammond B3 — especially the shimmering character of its tones, for which the instrument is so well known.

Heavenly Strings, Lively Drums

The strings also benefit: previously, we heard a somewhat amorphous sound layer that could just as easily have come from a synthesizer. Now, we can clearly distinguish a group of real violins and violas. The crescendo with which they first enter the song is now far more impressive. The beautifully executed increase in volume creates that majestic, almost heavenly effect for which such strings are often used in pop music. This directs our attention to dynamic changes. The drum kit stands out in particular: the snare has more impact, the drums sound more agile, and the cymbals respond more quickly. Overall, the drum set feels more lively and energetic — clear signs of improved dynamics. And all of this is achieved simply by replacing a power cable — remarkable. Our CD player, however, is still connected with a basic power cord. What happens if we replace that as well?

Second Improvement with a Second Cable

We use a second HMS Energia power cable to connect the source component to the power strip. We start Benson's "Rainy Night in Georgia" again — and we can't stop smiling: the soundstage



The jacket of the Energia SL/V is made of polyurethane. Thanks to this robust material, the cable is resistant to mechanical stress. At the same time, it remains highly flexible. This allows for a bending radius of just 70 millimeters, which is also a clear advantage in handling.

becomes even more spacious, and the presentation even more open. We hear the instruments with greater clarity, finesse, and articulation, and we discover more details. This is immediately noticeable in the opening guitar: it is now surrounded by a beautiful reverb that we had not perceived as clearly before, enhancing the guitar sound significantly. Dynamically, the performance improves once again: the snare and cymbals now exhibit remarkable precision. Additional gains become apparent as well. George Benson, who already felt more present after the first cable upgrade on the amplifier, now becomes a fully realized frontman — standing noticeably closer to the listener. The increased level of detail makes him feel like a physically present performer.

More Balanced and Relaxed

The differences in the bass are also striking. Marcus Miller's four-string bass was already impressive from the start, but with each cable upgrade it improves further. The notes become more articulated, and we can now clearly hear string and fret noises that are part of a faithful reproduction. In addition, the bass gains more foundation and presence, asserting itself more strongly. Especially in the lowest frequencies, it delivers a powerful and unwavering low end. Now, this low end is cleaner, and despite its weight, the bass sounds more refined and relaxed. This sense of relaxation extends beyond the bass to the entire musical presentation. We notice this when we shift our focus back to the overall sound: everything feels more natural and coherent. Gradually, we sink deeper into the listening experience, as this relaxed presentation enhances our enjoyment of the music even further.



The HMS Energia SL/V fits securely and firmly into the power strip. With consistently high-quality power cabling, the best performance can be achieved. In this setup, we supply our amplifier with the HMS Energia SL/V and our other components each with an HMS Energia SL/OV.

Conclusion

It remains remarkable how much difference a high-quality power cable can make over the final one to two meters. This test clearly demonstrates that with the Energia SL/V. Optimized for low resistance and low inductance, this cable has brought improvements to our system in terms of detail, dynamics, accuracy, and imaging, as well as overall coherence and ease of listening. A consistently high-quality cabling setup throughout the entire system can further enhance these gains. Achieving such a performance increase is hardly possible in a simpler or more effective way. The Energia SL/V also serves as an entry-level alternative to the even more effective — but also more expensive — HMS Energia Suprema. With its additional integrated surge protection, the Energia SL/V offers extra value that makes it even more highly recommended.

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