

Kubala-Sosna Ovation Cables | REVIEW

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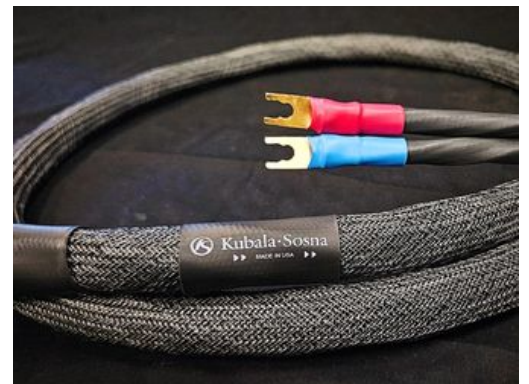
By Greg Weaver

The Kubala-Sosna Ovation Cable Loom – Cable Supremacy Has a New Name

One of my earliest breakthrough articles on audio appeared in the late 1980s. I was among the first audio journalists to argue that cables deserve as much consideration in a summit-level audio system as any other component. My article on loudspeaker cables, straightforwardly titled "Loudspeaker Cable: Simple Passive Connection or Complex Dynamic Component," first appeared in Volume 1, Issue 2, of my original magazine, [the audio analyst](#)®, in Winter 1989.

After recounting my own cable journey, I offered a deconstruction of every cable design known to me at the time and identified the general sonic signature of each of them. For those interested, a copy of that work, updated for republication in 1997, may be seen [HERE](#). Since then, I have listened to and auditioned more cables than I can count, with products ranging in price from tens of dollars to over one hundred fifty thousand dollars each! And the mix is made up of brands such as Acoustic Zen, [Ansuz](#), [Audience](#), [AudioQuest](#), [Cardas](#), Cello, D.H. Labs, [Furutech](#), Goertz, Harmonic Technology, JPS Labs, [Kimber](#), [Kubala-Sosna](#), MasterBuilt, Magnan, Mapleshade, Mogami, Monster Cable, [Nordost](#), Polk, PranaWire, [Siltech](#), Silversmith, STEALTH, Tara Labs, Verbatim, WireWorld, and networked models from Transparent and MIT.

I have also consulted as a product developer. That long arc of experience has only strengthened the validity of the first of the audio analyst's nine audio axioms: "Cables Are Components." It may also be worth noting that I have had the pleasure of knowing Joe Kubala, cofounder of Kubala-Sosna Research (Howard Sosna, the other partner, chose to retire from Kubala-Sosna in 2021), since 2004, shortly after the launch of the brand. And throughout all that time, one of their guiding principles has been the considered decision not to disclose any of the details behind their cable design, construction, or composite materials, which now include a dozen ranges of price and performance. The company simply does not discuss conductor or dielectric materials, or even its custom proprietary terminations. Why?



Exploring the Benefits of Kubala-Sosna Ovation

Honestly, this may be the most ingenious and straightforward method ever employed to mitigate expectation bias. This deliberate omission prevents listeners from projecting their preconceptions, positive or negative, onto their listening experience, furthering the likelihood of a more impartial and balanced evaluation. Kudos, Kubala-Sosna Research. While they've chosen not to reveal any such detail, they have trademarked the term Optimiz™ to help describe and differentiate their varying levels of architecture. With four ranges now, the original Optimiz™, (including Fascination, Expression, and Emotion), Optimiz2™ (for Elation), Optimiz3™ (applying to Temptation, Sensation, and Realization), and Optimiz4™ (covering Celebration and Ovation). These ranges refer to their proprietary cable architecture, with each level designed to more distinctly optimize the electrical load interactions (in electronics, the letter Z is the standard symbol used to express

electrical impedance) between audio components, with the goal of improving resolution, soundstaging, and dynamic expression while preserving the brand's signature tonal balance.

My familiarity with Kubala-Sosna Research's flagship families of cables comes from extensive, repeated listening sessions with systems that showcased them, most notably the main system at [GTT Audio](#) in Long Valley, New Jersey. And I must admit that I had thought that the Realization line that immediately preceded Ovation was an unbeatable construction. Then, along came Kubala-Sosna Ovation!



Into The Fray

On the Monday immediately following AXPONA 2026, Bill Parish and Joe Kubala stopped by my home and replaced my entire select and diverse cable loom with a complete set of these flagship Kubala-Sosna Ovation cables...all the AC power cords, the balanced and single-ended interconnects, the loudspeaker biwires, and even the power distribution system. Spoiler alert! The transformation was not subtle. Within 15 seconds of dropping the needle on the first LP after the cables installation, I hit the mute button and turned to Joe and Bill in astonishment to share my first observation, a blatantly obvious advance in the presentation of instrumental layering, staging, and imaging. What had become immediately apparent, and I mean staggeringly so, was the exceptional advance made in the way my system now portrayed layering, focus, image placement and size, as well as the voicing interrelationships within the soundstage. While spatial recreation has always been one of my system's most engaging strengths (details on my current reference system may be found [HERE](#)), it was now being rendered with greater refinement, deeper, more interrelated dimensional development, and presenting a more palpable, corporeal presence.

There was now such an expansive soundstage, so rife with exceptional dimensionality, that the system's "boundaries" had been notably expanded, allowing it to even more effectively "disappear," exposing a more visceral, emotional connection to the performance, and sounding considerably less like an electro-mechanical music reconstruction engine. Another attribute that jumped out just as dramatically was the breathtaking leap forward in bass resolution and pitch definition, exposing rich textures that extended all the way into the deepest frequencies my speakers are able to regenerate. With my **Von Schweikert Audio ULTRA.9** loudspeakers, this unprecedented refinement translates into a virtually flat, room-pressurizing frequency response down to 16Hz! And the result this brought to the system's ability to project dynamic scaling, and to reveal nuance, inner detail, and shading, right down into the threshold of the noise floor, was equally breathtaking.

With more listening, the Kubala-Sosna Ovation loom exposed an effortless ability to express extraordinarily smooth and natural tonality, broadband. The Kubala-Sosna Ovation's ability to accurately reproduce the audio signal across all frequency bands, without disproportionately boosting or attenuating any specific pitch or register, allows for an exceptionally accurate and convincing presentation of tonal linearity. The result is an incomparable balance of bass, midrange, and treble that remains truer to the original sounds of instruments, producing a tapestry of sound that is superbly neutral and uncolored, delivering a more perfectly balanced, deeply detailed, richly textured, harmonically inclusive performance.



One final, but no less crucial, disarming property was a newfound and almost supernatural sense of quietness, something I can only describe as an advanced degree of arbitrary or random noise reduction or removal. With the full Kubala-Sosna Ovation loom in play, there is something about the brand's Optimiz4™ architecture that somehow strips away subtle layers of grit and background noise. The resultant enchanting level of stillness, of quietness, that they instill is impossible to unhear. This removal, or extreme minimization, of grain and indiscriminate grit otherwise overlaid on and inextricably fused into the music is something I first experienced during my listening with the Stealth Indra interconnects some twenty-odd years ago. I can't profess to understand the mechanics or physics behind how this effect is realized, yet Kubala-Sosna Ovation takes this refinement to an intoxicatingly new level, revealing more natural recording ambience, inner detail, and decay.



Unrivalled Performance

What makes all this sophisticated refinement and finesse so significant is the synergistic impact it has upon your listening experience. Unlike some other high-performance cables that may sacrifice musical warmth to chase maximum speed or resolution, the Kubala-Sosna Ovation cables amalgam of expansive soundstaging, delicate layering, elevated resolution, dynamic expressiveness and authority, with its relaxed liquidity, effortless naturalness and flow, and unprecedented balance and linearity, allow them to deliver an immersive audio performance where the physical presence of the system is reduced to a point of nearly vanishing, more readily revealing an uncolored, purer essence of recordings. In a word, the Kubala-Sosna Research Ovation experience is transformative!

The Kubala-Sosna Ovation cable loom does not offer a mere incremental improvement over all the preceding flagship entrants from K-S Research, or any other cable loom in my experience. It represents an order of magnitude of improvement over them in any and every sonic attribute I can name. It brought a transformational improvement to my system, one that much more closely replicated the advances one normally would attribute to a major upgrade of a source or the associated electronics of a system than a "simple" cable loom substitution. The Kubala-Sosna Ovation's combination of deeply extended, superbly refined and expressive bass, its enhanced spatial capabilities, its supreme broadband linearity and simply unprecedented tonal balance, as well as its advanced noise suppression, make this the most advanced, exceptionally performing cable loom I've yet experienced, and by a more considerable margin than I had believed to be possible. Listening with the Kubala-Sosna Ovation cable loom in place provided the closest experience to listening to nothing between me and my music that I have ever witnessed!

This latest design from Kubala-Sosna Research represents an exciting new paradigm for balanced and sophisticated performance in my experience. The scope and degree of overall performance elevation that the Ovation loom delivered to my summit-level system, in every regard, was not only on a scale that had been unimaginable to me, but it became even more unimaginable that I might be able to settle for the absurdly more compromised performance I had enjoyed before its installation. A word to the wise. Don't try the Kubala-Sosna Ovation loom if you aren't prepared to take the plunge, because once you hear them, you will never be able to unhear their unparalleled sonic grandeur and be willing or able to settle for the less polished performance you lived with prior to their insertion. You have been warned, and I have a new reference.

Price:

The Kubala-Sosna Ovation speaker cables and analog interconnects are \$16,500 for the first meter (per pair), with each additional meter running \$2,800.

