

PRANAWIRE NIRVANA XLS power cord Level II

review by PHP AUDIO, June 2025

PRANAWIRE NIRVANA XLS Serie

Introduction

This line of cables was launched in 2024 and replaces all the « old » Kensho, Cosmos, Mahasamadhi, Arhat, Avatar ranges and also the flagship line Nirvana.

NIRVANA XLS which means over lightspeed by reference to over models named Arhat Lightspeed (and many others) uses new materials and topologies.

As usual, the Californian designer and manufacturer gives no more precision than the fact that all cables uses silver conductors.

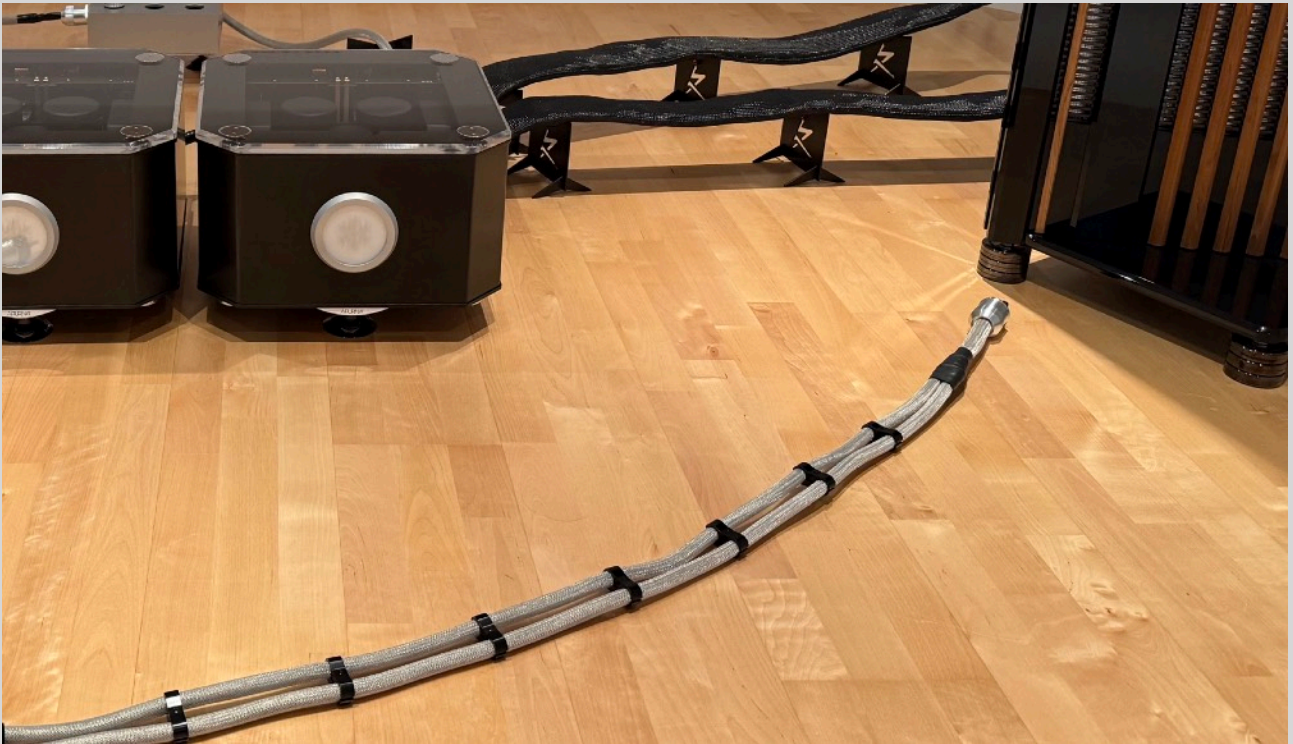
I use NIRVANA XLS Level III for many months and yes, it is the best power cable I tested here from PRANAWIRE or others brands.

NIRVANA XLS Level II is a more affordable cable I ordered to power my mono blocks with an « external line » i.e. not using the in wall AC line custom made with very good cables and AC duplex.



The input is 3 meter long and use 2 separates conductors with constant distance and no contact with help of spacers. This remind me some cables design from Pierre Johannet, formerly engineer at the French National electric company, but the is just an similar look.

Connecting and setting NIRVANA XLS Level II is not a problem as the cable is quite flexible and the spacers easy to arrange to get a perfect parallel arrangement.

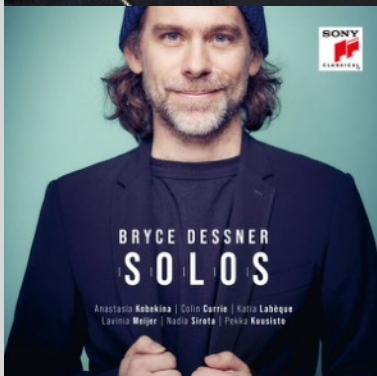


Listening

Joe Cohen told me that he tested the cable before shipping and said « it is unbelievable », and asked me to report my findings. For 1 week, I was knocked out, enthusiastic and also confused. This cable is so laid bare in its presentation that it lifts 2 or 3 veils in your perception of music through the audio system. I decided to burn it more time even if Joe cooked it with his Dharma unit before sending this cable. I think that probably due to the uncommon length, the cable needs more than all my 1m or 1.5m AC cables. More length, more material to burn in, conductors but also the interface between conduction and isolation.



Ying-HSUEH CHEN's maskine is a good test to compare a recording to real music. The metallic percussions should sound powerful with body and a lot of harmonics but also real. The sound of these instruments is often (always?) too bright or too soft depending on the audio system. With NIRVANA XLS LII, the impact is like when I listen to this kind of instrument in concert row 3. Also the presentation is full of air and the sound space is really right.



On Delphica I and II, the taste of violin is delicate yet present with grip, this conveys to feel in there in the sound space.



Follia (1700) track 11 shows exactly the sound I listen in November 2023 in Switzerland, at 4 meters of Jordi Savall, in an unamplified temple. Sweetness, delicacy, shades of tones but everything is clear, precise even at 67 dB (A) measured during the event (playback set at 67 dB(A)).



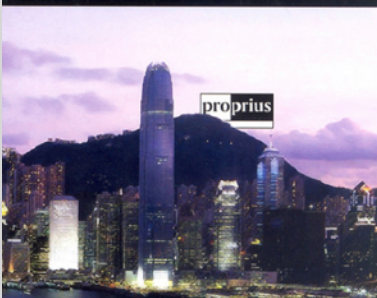
This well known recording of Anette Askvik « Liberty » is so present, palpable with so much air and long sound decays that the performance is jaw dropping, no audio system sounded like that in Munich 2025.



Live performance is often engaging at the cost of precision and close performance. Not here, all instruments sound very real and the drums , in "Relay » are wonderful.



On « solo and sphere » the sound is as right and present than listening to drums at 6 meters. My speakers do not compress anything and part of the result is due to this new power cable from Novato.



« O Helga natt » was on the listened at Munich Audio show in 2 rooms (from my side) and one of the playback was great using a vinyl turntable at very huge price. Here on the TAIKO Extreme the sound is very similar on the voice but much more separated on choir and more present.

Conclusion

NIRVANA XLS level II is a surprising cable that elevate music playback with a huge order of magnitude, at a price that is correct for the outstanding result. That said, NIRVANA XLS LII will show every quality of your audio system but also will point all the unbalance or lack of optimisation you system have. It could take 1 month to get the sweet spot and enough burn in to get your ticket for a performance that unburied all the nuances music could express.

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