
Subject: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable

Posted by [Kerry Galloway](#) on Thu, 27 Nov 2008 20:42:52 GMT

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I had my old friend Norm Fisher over yesterday, we were shooting out bass DIs for his rig. We shot out three Radials (JDI, J48, a BassBone), my trusty Demeter VTBP-201 and a Bare Knuckle Audio handmade "black box". We decided the JDI was the way to go (the Demeter was the fave but it was just for reference, he's not looking for a rackmount; we'd already shot out the REDDI previously, but although it sounds killer soloed we love what the Demeter does to bass in the track) since it made his Sadowsky and vintage P the happiest.

And then Warren, my tenant (the tenant who just happens to be a music editor, an engineer and an ex-Fodera luthier for good measure) brings up a \$250 Monster bass patch cord he was given as a gift. We laughed, knowing it was all hype - a decent cable (which we were already using) is a decent cable, right?

Wrong. We weren't laughing after putting it through its paces. Holy snap, the difference between the Monster cable and the regular (good-quality) cable was every bit as profound as the difference between DIs. Less harsh highs, rounder lows, tighter bottom. It's supposedly a "one way" cable, and honestly we couldn't hear a scrap of difference between directions - but the raw sound was *definitely* the surprise of the day.

Norm is Bryan Adams' bassist, and his tech keeps threatening to build him "Monster-quality" patch cables, so next step we get a few of those puppies built and shoot them out against the Monster (I ain't payin' no \$250 to a pack of Cayman Island IP rapists if I can help it).

Eeeenteresting.

- K

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Thu, 27 Nov 2008 22:16:28 GMT

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If you feed it directly into this you'll have multiple orgasms.

<http://www.eden-electronics.com/products/amps/indiv/wp100.as p>

KerryGalloway <kerrygalloway@telus.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [EK Sound](#) on Thu, 27 Nov 2008 22:49:05 GMT
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Build some cables out of Canare GS6 with Neutrik ends and see how they compare to the Monster.

David.

KerryGalloway wrote:

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Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable

Posted by [Kerry Galloway](#) on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 00:41:54 GMT

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Woot! Well, I already have an old Eden Traveller WT400; I might have to
plug it in and see. Rumor was that Demeter designed the pres on the old
ones.

- K

On 2008-11-27 14:16:28 -0800, "John" <no@no.com> said:

>
> If you feed it directly into this you'll have multiple orgasms.

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> KerryGalloway <kerrygalloway@telus.net> wrote:
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Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Kerry Galloway](#) on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 00:43:47 GMT
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On 2008-11-27 14:49:05 -0800, EK Sound <ask_me@nospam.net> said:

> Build some cables out of Canare GS6 with Neutrik ends and see how they
> compare to the Monster.
>
> David.

I have a bin full of cabling salvaged from various projects and I'm going to be doing the Big Build sometime before Feb, so I'll likely be giving something like that a shot.

- K

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Kerry Galloway](#) on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 05:30:57 GMT
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> I once had a friend with a EE degree explain at great length
> that wire is wire but my ears tell me different.

Yeah, me too. But after yesterday I don't *care* what the specs say. We went into this as extreme skeptics, actually laughing as we plugged them back and forth - then we stopped laughing.

> Since then I discovered
> that the George L wire seems to sound just as good and is cheaper and easier
> to work with. You might want to give that a try too...
>
> Gantt

Great tip! I think the next step right now is going to be getting the tech to give it his best shot and see where that goes.

- K

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 05:47:55 GMT
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A long time ago I was working at Washington Music Center in Maryland and I bought some Monster mic cable w/ my employee discount. Even then it cost something stupid like \$1.50/foot but I bit the bullet and bought 50 feet of it to check out. I built two mic cables and a 10' guitar cable. It was a major pain to work with because the individual strands were individually insulated so soldering was a time consuming - I had to melt the insulation off before the copper would take the solder. I took the 10' cable to my gig that night. It was totally mind blowing! The difference was as dramatic

as changing strings after a long stretch. More highs, more lows, more dynamics. So, being a glutton for punishment, I replaced every cable in my rig w/ Monster wire. I once had a friend with a EE degree explain at great length that wire is wire but my ears tell me different. Since then I discovered that the George L wire seems to sound just as good and is cheaper and easier to work with. You might want to give that a try too...

Gantt

KerryGalloway <kerrygalloway@telus.net> wrote:

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>- K

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Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 14:52:12 GMT
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I'm an EE and your friend appears to be missing fundamentals. Cable capacitance has a dramatic effect on what high frequencies get through among other parameters. All wire is not the same. That's why for high quality video signals you need high quality cable with low capacitance so the high frequencies don't get lost.

There is no magic formula to cables but you do need good quality like canare, mogami etc. I buy my cables from [haveinc.com](#) cuz they are cheap and top quality canare.

If you hear differences then there are likely impedance mismatches or coloring from a cable that can't handle the frequencies.

<http://sound.westhost.com/cables-p3.htm>

John

KerryGalloway <kerrygalloway@telus.net> wrote:

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>tech to give it his best shot and see where that goes.

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Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 16:54:54 GMT
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This is all really good info! Open minds and sharing tips, I like it.

Rod

KerryGalloway <kerrygalloway@telus.net> wrote:

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>> that wire is wire but my ears tell me different.

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Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable

Posted by [Kerry Galloway](#) on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 20:13:57 GMT

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Great info, John, thanks! I'll be digging through the weighty cable bin and seeing what I have in there (I'm almost sure I have some Mogami and Canare instrument cable in there). I've already got a bunch of Neutrik ends I can use.

- K

On 2008-11-28 06:52:12 -0800, "John" <no@no.com> said:

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> John

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Deej \[5\]](#) on Sat, 29 Nov 2008 06:32:03 GMT
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"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote:

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There's some more good info posted down toward the bottom of this page.
<http://www.hollywoodsapphiregroup.com/>

:o)

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sat, 29 Nov 2008 20:33:11 GMT
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http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,,sid9_gci541369,00.html

Whatever it is that Monster is doing, it works at the least on their guitar cables. I suspect this is a more sensitive cable simply due to impedance of the circuit. All I know is I scoffed a coupla years ago at a sales guy I knew when he told me I'd be buying that \$50 bass gtr cable. Then I plugged it in and guess what. I bought it with a stupid grin and a *how'd I miss that all these years* look on my face. There had to have been a good 3dB drop off on the low B string with the other 'usual' good cables.

AA

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:4931a774\$1@linux...

>
> He worked for Motorola did mostly RF work. I'm pretty sure he understood

> the effects of capacitance. I even already knew that. One of the things
> the boutique cable folks talk about is the "skin effect" where certain
> frequencies
> (if I understand this right) tend to travel on the surface of a conductor,
> causing some frequencies to arrive at the listener's ear at a slightly
> different
> time than others. Monster uses strands of different diameters to somehow
> mitigate this phenomenon. Do you know anything about it? Truth or
> fiction?
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Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Sat, 29 Nov 2008 21:35:00 GMT
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Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Mon, 01 Dec 2008 14:10:30 GMT
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I'd put a \$25 canare cable from haveinc.com up against it for comparison.

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Kerry Galloway](#) on Mon, 01 Dec 2008 16:09:28 GMT
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On 2008-12-01 06:10:30 -0800, "John" <no@no.com> said:

>
> I'd put a \$25 canare cable from haveinc.com up against it for comparison.

At a 10-1 price ratio? You bet I want to know about it - consider it done. We have another shootout with lightweight amps coming up so it should be a fun opportunity.

- K

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable

Posted by [Stephen Stecyk](#) on Mon, 01 Dec 2008 22:14:55 GMT

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Ok, I stupid (or ignorant - probably both), but I can't seem to find any info on any Monster Cable bass instrument cable worth \$250.00. The most expensive Monster Bass Instrument Cable was \$60.00 for 30 ft. Could it have been the Studio Pro 1000 instrument cable? Those float around the \$150.00 for a 21 ft length.

I only want to know so I can do a little more research on the subject - I'm a bass player (by choice), and would love to try something like you're describing here.

Stephen

"KerryGalloway" <kerrygalloway@telus.net> wrote in message news:492f0a30@linux...

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> - K

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Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Kerry Galloway](#) on Tue, 02 Dec 2008 07:42:44 GMT
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On 2008-12-01 14:14:55 -0800, "Stephen Stecyk" <smp@smppro.com> said:

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> I'm a bass player (by choice), and would love to try something like
> you're describing here.
>
> Stephen

I hadn't checked the price, that was what I thought I heard Warren say (although I might have misunderstood). I just checked and it sure looks like it was the Studio Pro 1000 to me, which is a more-modest but still-hefty \$119.95. The bass cable is a surprisingly not-unreasonable \$44.95.

Norm just got off the phone from Keith Scott's tech in Toronto, who's going to make him three of his own custom directional cables and FEDEX them here for next week to try out - 2 x 15' and a 10'. He said he's AB'd his with the Monsters and likes his own better, and he says he'd be happy to make me some as well if I like them too. Norm should have them by next week and we'll shoot 'em out and start a new thread. I'm looking forward to seeing how much of the Monster hype is, as John suggests, just good basic EE.

- K

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [Stephen Stecyk](#) on Fri, 05 Dec 2008 14:31:38 GMT
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I'm glad that it wasn't just me not finding the \$250.00 cable. A \$45.00 bass cable isn't totally unreasonable - I'll probably start with that cable and give it a try.

I find Monster Cable is like the Jordache jeans of the 80s - a better quality product than what's out there generally, but by far over-priced compared to what benefits you're ultimately getting. I've used some of their snake cabling (StudioLink 27 Channel) when creating my home studio,

and noticed a difference in the sound quality - closest thing I can say is that it was cleaner, more defined, a bit more well-rounded.

I'd love to hear your experience with the custom cable - I'll keep an eye out for the thread.

Stephen

"KerryGalloway" <kerrygalloway@telus.net> wrote in message news:4934eacd@linux...

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> them here for next week to try out - 2 x 15' and a 10'. He said he's AB'd
> his with the Monsters and likes his own better, and he says he'd be happy
> to make me some as well if I like them too. Norm should have them by next
> week and we'll shoot 'em out and start a new thread. I'm looking forward
> to seeing how much of the Monster hype is, as John suggests, just good
> basic EE.

>

> - K

>

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable

Posted by [Kerry Galloway](#) on Fri, 05 Dec 2008 19:01:48 GMT

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On 2008-12-05 06:31:38 -0800, "Stephen Stecyk" <smp@smppro.com> said:

> I'm glad that it wasn't just me not finding the \$250.00 cable. A
> \$45.00 bass cable isn't totally unreasonable - I'll probably start with
> that cable and give it a try.
>
> I find Monster Cable is like the Jordache jeans of the 80s - a better
> quality product than what's out there genrally, but by far over-priced
> compared to what benefits you're ultimately getting. I've used some of
> their snake cabling (StudioLink 27 Channel) when creating my home
> studio, and noticed a difference in the sound quality - closest thing I
> can say is that it was cleaner, more defined, a bit more well-rounded.
>
> I'd love to hear your experience with the custom cable - I'll keep an
> eye out for the thread.
>
> Stephen

I spent some slow periods years ago helping a techie friend assemble patchbays. The same folks whose patchbays I was helping build were also musical colleagues so I got to see the whole process from a number of perspectives - before, after, during. There's no doubt in my mind that cleaning up their cabling and replacing the "bits and pieces" with Mogami made pronounced differences to their sonics - tighter bottom, cleaner top and better stereo soundstage, everything "popped" better. They were staggered at the improvement.

- K

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Sat, 06 Dec 2008 01:18:35 GMT
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Top quality cables are awesome but you don't have to spend a lot on them.

enjoy....
<http://store.haveinc.com/default.aspx>

Subject: Re: Hooly Dooly - Monster guitar cable
Posted by [kerryg](#) on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 18:08:30 GMT
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Thanks John, they look like an excellent solution - nice prices! I'm in a slightly different position than many - I have friends in the pro audio wiring business and have inherited a stream of high-quality cable left over from years of wiring gigs (and access to wholesale/bulk prices for more), so

I'll probably be doing a lot of the wiring myself under the patient tutelage of a colleague.

- K

On 12/5/08 5:18 PM, in article 4939c4db\$1@linux, "John" <no@no.com> wrote:

>

> Top quality cables are awesome but you don't have to spend a lot on them.

>

> enjoy....

> <http://store.haveinc.com/default.aspx>
