

ETI CABLEPOD™



It is in the area of loudspeaker connection, most particularly in the construction of binding posts, that we see the greatest examples of flawed thinking and perhaps the most misguided design directions in the connector industry. If unimpeded electron flow, signal integrity, and high resolution are the goals, then both manufacturers and marketing directors are looking in entirely the wrong direction. Most binding posts, and most particularly the large, expensive ones, create more problems than they solve. They degrade sonic performance; they bottleneck electron flow—even though they may look good in the process.

Perhaps the greatest misconception in binding post design is that bigger, shinier, and better machined binding posts sound better.

In most instances—and this is difficult for many marketing departments to accept—the polar opposite is true. In fact the large mass of metal used in many binding posts, while visually impressive, has been shown to introduce phase errors and smearing due to skin effect—where high frequency signals travelling on the surface of the conductor are conveyed faster than low frequency signals travelling at varying depths and speeds within the metal itself. The result is quite frequently a reduction in time domain linearity and compromised sonic performance, manifesting itself as slow, bass heavy, smeared sound.

In addition, most binding posts utilise a heavy plating of gold over a nickel substrate, and ultimately over brass, to achieve their bright yellow-gold look. While giving the contact surface a rich jewel-like appearance, this is often a cause of degraded sound quality as electrons flow through three dissimilar metals with differing electrical and conductive properties.

The ETI CablePod™ offers the same kind of rethinking in the area of binding post design that we see from the ETI BulletPlug® and the ETI Bayonet Plug™ in RCA jack and banana connection.

The ETI CablePod™ elegantly addresses every important design challenge relating to sound quality in a binding post.

It carefully balances improved electron flow with mechanical integrity, and does so in a binding post that is absolutely compatible with all common loudspeaker cable terminations.

First, the right base metals are used. High purity tellurium copper with direct plated 24k gold, or silver with an antioxidising formulation and no plating, is employed. This provides up to 320% greater conductivity than gold plated brass binding posts.

Secondly, careful attention was paid to the thickness and mass of the contact element. In subverting visual appeal to improved performance we went where few other manufacturers in our experience have gone. We devoted months of experimentation and countless hours of machining, all with the sole and overriding purpose of creating a contact element that is ideal in size and shape to support current flow but to minimise skin effect. We then carefully thought through the whole clamping process used in capturing spades or bare wire. Rather than sandwiching the spade or bare wire between two metal surfaces, we created a unique telescoping mechanism in which a high strength polymer captures the speaker termination and presses it snugly against a single metal conducting surface. The reduced mass of metal and the unique clamping mechanism provide both better sound and a more secure connection.

Finally, we removed the typical binding post securing nut from the conductive path by incorporating an over moulded polymer thread to insulate the nut from the contact element.

It is our contention that never has so much attention been given or time devoted to improving the electron flow, signal integrity, and sound quality in a binding post. The ETI CablePod™ offers improvements in these areas of such significance they simply must be heard to be believed.



EICHMANN TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL