

KLEI Harmony (Bullet) Plugs

Advancing the art and science of the original Eichmann Bullet Plug
Keith Eichmann proudly introduces the next generation Eichmann Bullet plugs,
the Harmony Plug series

The original Bullet Plug was anything but a quiet revolution. It was an all-out assault on the precepts, the taken-for-granted compromises inherent in the design of the RCA jack, and conventional thinking. After all, the RCA jack was a connector designed by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) over 80 years ago for the connection of a 'record player' to their radios. Despite its humble beginnings, this connector became by default the industry standard for component connection, and remains so to this day. Accepted for what it is, the RCA jack offers industry-wide compatibility, but is far from an ideal connector.

Demonstrating a considerable amount of out-of-the-box thinking, and a willingness to challenge what was taken for granted, Keith Louis Eichmann (KLE) designed and introduced the original Eichmann Bullet Plug in 2000. The plug was an instant success. It simply sounded better. Keith's design eliminated eddy current distortion, capacitive reactance, and micro-arcing. It offered a new kind of grounding, a radically different architecture, and superior conductivity.



After seventeen years, a patent, a trademark, and numerous copycats, the original Bullet Plug has undergone a significant redesign and improvement. That same outside-the-box thinking by Keith Louis Eichmann, which produced the original Eichmann Bullet Plugs, has been applied with many further and advanced improvements to produce the new generation Eichmann Harmony (Bullet) Plugs -- the mantle has been passed on. The Harmony Plugs, by KLE Innovations, deliver vastly superior performance and simply sound better.

MATERIALS. From the very outset, Keith (KLE) has had an understanding of and a sensitivity to electron flow. His designs focus on signal integrity, the elimination or mitigation of causes of electron turbulence, most notably eddy currents, capacitive reactance, and micro-arcing. A central theme in his designs has been his choice of materials. He made a conscious decision to eliminate metal housings as standard on his connectors, as well as the universally used metal collars. Whether magnetic or not, metals surrounding the conductor contribute to electron chaos, and inhibit smooth signal flow. KLE uses highly heat resistant and electrically inert polymers both as housings and for the collar. Not as a cost savings, but for better performance. In fact, the tooling required for these glass impregnated polymer housings arguably results in costs that are *higher* than those for metal housings. These materials serve to improve signal integrity and reduce or eliminate known compromises for smooth electron flow.

OPTIMUM MASS. Bigger, thicker, and more massive doesn't add up to better sound. In fact, quite to the contrary. A studied, optimised, and in most cases a minimalist approach to mass actually results in better sound—and better electron flow. KLE's proprietary signal to ground mathematical formulae, ensure an optimal architectural relationship between all metal complements and dielectrics that have been utilised. The result is control, and the avoidance of sonic compromises caused by skin effect. Also, the reduction of EF and EMF interference. Controlling these parameters ensures a complete, full, and extended frequency range, where harmonics are conveyed from component to component intact.

METALLURGY. This is of paramount importance; and something that's been central to Keith Eichmann's designs from the very beginning. Keith is committed to implementing and using, in his current Harmony Plug designs, only conductors that are *more* conductive than pure copper, and even pure silver.

Keith is in fact responsible for bringing IACS (International Annealed Copper Standard) into the audio conversation. Using pure copper (100% IACS) as a reference, the IACS percentage defines a metal's electrical conductivity relative to pure copper. For example, brass (25%~37% IACS), bronze (15 ~ 48% IACS), and rhodium (35%~38% IACS) are poor to average electrical conductors when compared to pure copper. Pure silver is better at 105% IACS. Gold is about 70% IACS. These numbers — 100, 28, 105 and 70 are known as percentages of IACS.

KLE's Harmony (Bullet) Plugs are all at an IACS rating of 101% or greater, and are breaking the conceptual boundaries that have been previously thought to be absolute. A lot has happened since the days of the original Bullet Plug; and the metallurgy utilised in the Harmony Plugs represents new understandings that have grown out of research into the processes of forming and finishing—also, metallurgical affinities and intrinsic crystalline structures.

KLEI also rejects the use of passivation for preserving and protecting conducting metals—something touted by some connector manufacturers as being a feature. We are opposed to zinc, zinc oxide or these kinds of coatings, and simply will not knowingly compromise our IACS ratings for unnecessary protection.

It is important to note that the Harmony Plugs' signal and ground pins are harmoniously formed in a way that the metallurgical processes work together and not in opposition to each other—both electrically and mechanically. Extrapolation indicates, electrically, that the utilised metal complements are at least as conductive as pure copper (100% IACS) or pure silver (105% IACS). In pure annealed form, pure copper and pure silver are too soft to machine and easily bend. As such, the machinable forms of copper and silver, as used in audio applications, have noticeably lower IACS values than their pure copper and pure silver forms. The bottom line is that conductivity (IACS percentage) is defined by a metal's formation, i.e. its completed form. No matter how you get there and to quote Keith Eichmann, '*the proof's in the pudding.*' The Harmony Plugs excel in this area, and better any RCA connectors we have seen to date.

ARCHITECTURE. Conventional RCAs utilise a metal collar, which encircles the signal pin as the plug's ground—a configuration which contributes to the kinds of electron turbulence discussed earlier. These disturbances are in the form of electrical eddy currents, capacitive reactance, and micro-arcing.

To combat the degrading effects of electron chaos, Keith went way outside the box. He opted for single point grounding, sometimes referred to as star grounding in high-end electronics, where the plug makes single point contact with the female RCA socket. In so doing, he eliminates the metal collar. This is a radical departure from eighty years of RCA connector design, and eliminates every vestige of eddy current turbulence, capacitive reactance, and micro-arcing.

When comparing the new Harmony Plugs, to the original Bullet Plug, it is important to note that the new Harmony Plugs' signal and ground pins have been further and dramatically optimised in terms of shape, mass, and thickness—and are electrically and mechanically superior.

MATHEMATICAL MODELING. The relationships between ground and signal pin, i.e. metal complement, mass, and other critical parameters, are derived via KLE's signal to ground mathematical formulae, and differ from Harmony Plug to Harmony Plug. The Harmony Plug metallurgy results in a progression in conductivity, >101% to >107% IACS, as you move through the range from the Classic Harmony to the Absolute Harmony.



CLASSIC HARMONY (BULLET) PLUG

- Glass filled heat resistant thermoplastic polymer body and collar
- Tolerates high temperature soldering required for high silver content solder
- Single point grounding
- Excellent for digital. 100% compatible with SPDIF standards
- Proprietary mathematical modeling is utilised to produce the Classic's ground to signal pin relationship, parameters, and determines the proprietary metallurgical processes that are used. Extrapolated results: >101% IACS
- Cable OD sizes from 4mm to 9.5mm. Small cable grommet and 2 screws supplied to retain and secure the cable
- *Higher conductivity. Calculations indicate a progression in IACS percentage, in the series. Greater than that of the Eichmann Copper and Silver Bullet plug*



COPPER HARMONY (BULLET) PLUG

- Glass filled heat resistant thermoplastic polymer body and collar
- Tolerates high temperature soldering required for high silver content solder
- Single point grounding
- Excellent for digital. 100% compatible with SPDIF standards
- Proprietary mathematical modeling is utilised to produce the Copper's ground to signal pin relationship, parameters, and determines the proprietary metallurgical processes that are used. Extrapolated results: >101% IACS and even >102% IACS
- Cable OD sizes from 4mm to 9.5mm. Small cable grommet and 2 screws supplied to retain and secure the cable
- *Higher conductivity. Calculations indicate a progression in IACS percentage, in the series. Greater than that of the Classic Harmony plug*

Steve Reeve, reviewer for *Fine Art*, has the following to say about the Copper Harmony (Bullet) Plug in his *Fine Arts* review:

'I cannot recall my modestly priced hi-fi ever reproducing music with such clarity. Every instrument, every artist, every venue, every album, is being reproduced in a manner that would normally be attributed to spending thousands of dollars on significantly better components — not a \$60 set of RCA plugs! Even my oldest recordings are revealing details I've never before heard. There is also a warmth that was previously missing, which is especially nice for digital playback, creating a more engaging rendition, with what appears to be a much larger "sweet spot" as a bonus.'



SILVER HARMONY (BULLET) PLUG

- Glass filled thermoplastic polymer body and collar
- Tolerates high temperature soldering required for high silver content solder
- Single point grounding
- Excellent for digital. 100% compatible with SPDIF standards
- Proprietary mathematical modeling is utilised to produce the Silver's ground to signal pin relationship, parameters, and determines the proprietary metallurgical processes that are used. Extrapolated results: >101% IACS and even >105% IACS
- Cable OD sizes from 4mm to 9.5mm. Small cable grommet and 2 screws supplied to retain and secure the cable
- *Higher conductivity. Calculations indicate a progression in IACS percentage, in the series. Greater than that of Classic or Copper Harmony plugs*



PURE HARMONY (BULLET) PLUG

- Glass filled thermoplastic polymer body and collar
- Tolerates high temperature soldering required for high silver content solder
- Single point grounding
- Excellent for digital. 100% compatible with SPDIF standards
- Proprietary mathematical modeling is utilised to produce the Pure's ground to signal pin relationship, parameters, and determines the proprietary metallurgical processes that are used. Extrapolated results: >105% IACS and even >106% IACS
- Cable OD sizes from 4mm to 9.5mm. Small cable grommet and 2 screws supplied to retain and secure the cable
- *Higher conductivity. Calculations indicate a progression in IACS percentage, in the series. Greater than that of Classic, Copper, or Silver Harmony plugs*

More from Steve Reeve, reviewer for *Fine Art*. From his review on the Pure Harmony (Bullet) Plug.

'The one thing the KLEI Harmony Plug range is not... pretentious. There is no gold or rhodium plating, no carbon fibre casing, no cryo treatment. If you are after looks – select another product. But... If you want a serious product capable of the ultimate in RCA performance...

KLEI Pure Harmony Phono/RCA Plug... pure genius, pure performance, pure magic!'



ABSOLUTE HARMONY (BULLET) PLUG

- The ultimate Keith Eichmann Bullet Plug design
- Glass filled thermoplastic polymer body and collar
- Tolerates high temperature soldering required for high silver content solder
- Single point grounding
- Excellent for digital. 100% compatible with SPDIF standards
- Proprietary mathematical modeling is utilised to produce the Absolute's ground to signal pin relationship, parameters, and determines the proprietary metallurgical processes that are used. Extrapolated results: >105% IACS and even >107% IACS
- Cable OD sizes from 4mm to 9.5mm. Small cable grommet and 2 screws supplied to retain and secure the cable
- *Higher conductivity. Calculations indicate a progression in IACS percentage, in the series. Greater than that of Classic, Copper, Silver, or Pure Harmony plugs, arguably an industry best.*

Steve Reeve, has the following to say about the Absolute Harmony (Bullet) Plug in his *Fine Arts* review:

'So, why would you use the KLEI Absolute Harmony RCA, as opposed to the Pure Harmony, or Silver Harmony or Copper Harmony?

I use the KLEI Absolute Harmony RCA because currently, I believe there is no other RCA plug capable of performing to the same level.

However, as with everything in life, one's budget can be a deciding factor, so the Harmony Range provides an RCA solution to fit several budgets. The Copper Harmony is an excellent performer and each successive model extends the abilities of its predecessor to provide a musical performance of the highest calibre.

So, there you have it!



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