

REL Bassline Blue subwoofer cable

by Alan Sircom

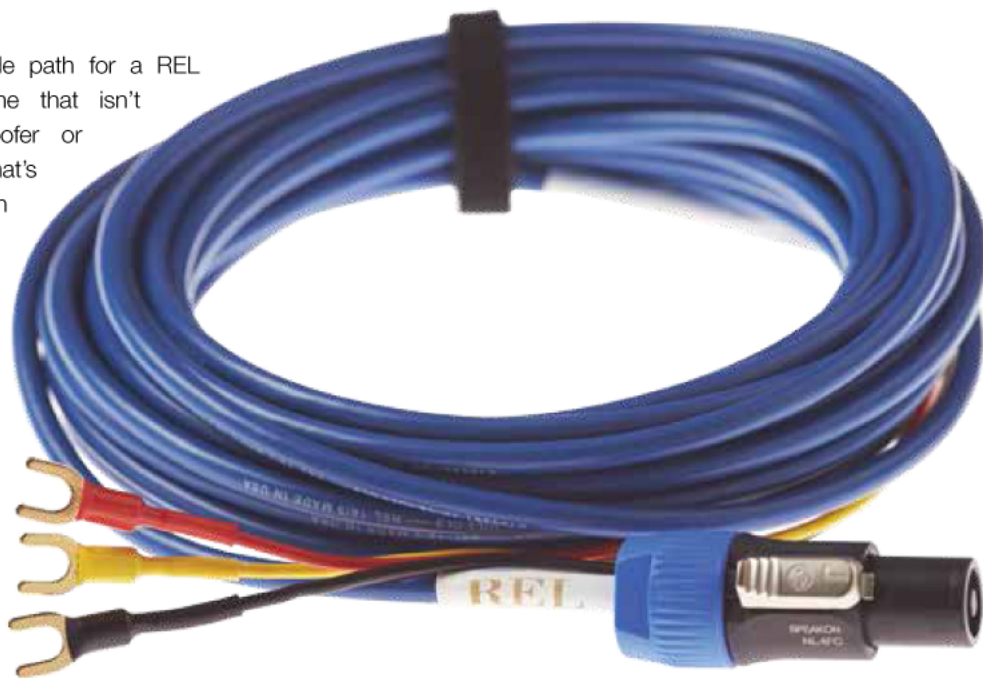
There is only one upgrade path for a REL subwoofer (at least, one that isn't either a bigger subwoofer or more subwoofers), and that's changing the connection

between amp and sub. To that end, aside from the standard black cable in the box, the choices are limited to the wireless Longbow connection (if you have a new S-Serie or Habitat1), or Bassline Blue cable.

Bassline Blue is thicker and less flexible than the standard-issue cable, and the three speaker-level connectors have small spade lugs in place of bare wire. The cable itself is slow drawn copper, extruded through a nitrogen bath and wrapped in Teflon directly after extrusion, using a method REL dubs 'Natural Drawn' wire. The result is very high purity copper conductors that never even got a sniff of the outside world and its oxidising properties. The US made cable terminates in a Neutrik Speakon connector, as per the base model.

This was one of the easiest reviews to write, because it took longer to swap the cables over than it did to recognise the performance step up Bassline Blue brings. It's one of those it 'does everything right' things, that doesn't just fall down to descriptive terms – an 'I know it when I hear it' moment that has you reaching for the credit card, fast. Bass is more distinct, more focused, the lift a good sub gives to the midrange is more pronounced, and it all hangs together that little bit better. REL suggests the sound of the standard cable after going back from Bassline Blue is like someone dimming the lights on stage, and that's a good analogy. There's nothing intrinsically wrong with the standard cable, but Bassline Blue just picks things out more directly, especially in the mids and treble. A good sub can open out the soundstage of a pair of loudspeakers in ways you might not expect from a device making bass and bass alone. And when you substitute the standard cable for Bassline Blue, it just opens out still further.

The audio world is sometimes full of hyperbole. Bassline Blue won't instantly make your hearing better, heal the sick, or any other wild claim. What it does is make a good subwoofer better, and that means it makes



your loudspeakers sound better. There's a temptation to think cables for sub-bass systems have little or no effect on the sound because the sub's output is so low; Bassline Blue ably demonstrates that these cables are just as important as every other wire in the system. Don't think of it as an accessory; Bassline Blue is a vital part of making a REL subwoofer give its best. Highly recommended. +

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

REL Bassline Blue

£299/6m cable

£399/10m cable

Manufactured by: REL

URL: rel.net

Tel: +44(0)1656 768777