This bedtimestory is about how i made some Super-Fetish Cables. “Fetish”??? Yes: it’s for freaks (like me) and they’re made of leather!! I believe the stories about using natural material, like cotton, wood etc.etc. I can hear the difference and they sound better but this cable smashes it all!! (and that’s not only my opinion ;-)

Measurements between my cable and some quite expensive interlinks proved I was on the right side. Induction was 5 – 20 times lower, Capacitance 0.8 times the other best cable, Resistance was just a bit more than the VandenHul Source-cable.. Cheap? NO! Why? Because there is 18 carat gold in it… Also the Eichmann Bullit Silver Plugs are not what you call “a bargain”.

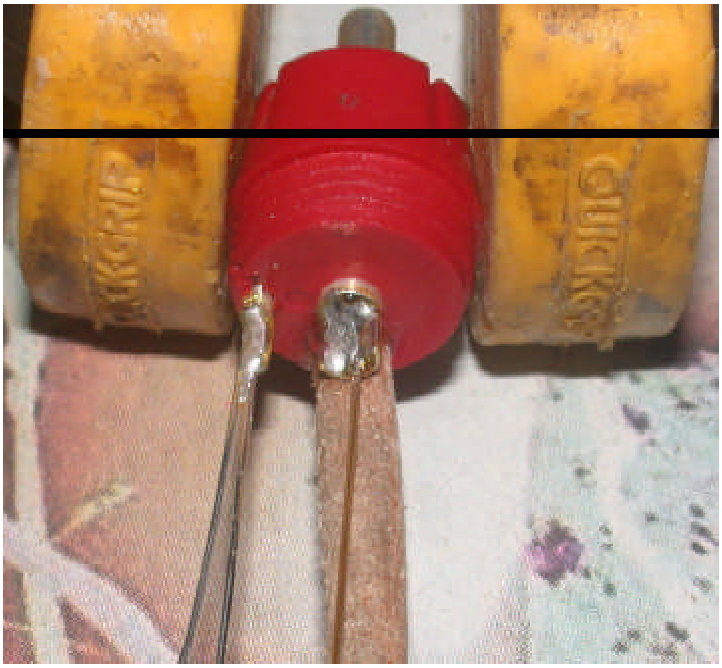
I did some measurements and simulations with different ways of leading a conductor from one to the other plug and found a way of coiling it cross-symmetrical over a core did reduce selfinduction about a factor 5. Simulations learnt that there was a good point where capacitance and resistance where best.. The thicker the wire the lower its resistance but the higher the capacitance.. Capacitance lowers the high-frequencies so this should be low. As most loads have a high impedance a resistance of half an Ohm wouldn’t do much, just a reduction in signal of 0.5/100000, if your input-impedance would be 100K. But that is not frequency-dependant…it’s equal to all signals.. Most of the capacitance is between the signalwire and the shield, you can’t help that (no shield should be the solution if you like to listen to hum and interference ;-) Well: I don’t!!

I chose to use a gold wire for the signal. Why gold? Well… beat me! Just tried it because it gave me a good feeling about this material. Resistivity is a bit higher than Copper but Rhodium is even higher than Gold and everyone wants to have Rhodium on their connectors (because it is more expensive, so it should be better, perhaps??) Afterall: a good sound is not

what you hear but what your brains make of it..(ouch don't smack me ;-)
I have something with leather, I think it's great material, it feels good, it smells good, it's tougher than most natural fabrics etc. etc. So I gave it a try….

Ok, what did I use for two 60cm cables:
4 Eichmann Bullit Silver Cinch-connectors (2 RED an d 2 BLACK).
120cm Cord 4.2mm round of Greece leather.
1 thin Cotton shoestrings length 120cm, I used a black and a darkbrown one (use only the ones that are braided very tight) . A brand called "Marla" makes these (in the Netherlands)
130 cm 18 carat solid gold wire, 0.4 mm round, I had 5 meters made by a silver/ gold smith for about 250 €.
130 cm solid Siltech silver 0.5mm round (it came with Kapton isolation but I managed to get that off without damaging the silver core… use a flame-thrower and burn your hands :-)
140 cm Silverplated copper shield. I found a very nice shield in a few meters very expensive militairy RF-cable. Very densily braided and plated very thick.. great stuff!!
About 20cm Silver wire 0,5mm round (I used 5-niner for this as I have plenty of it)
2 strips leather 60 x 3 cm. I used a very nice quality of thin lamb-skin…shiny black ofcourse (suits a "Fetish"cable best, grin grin..)
Tools:
a few cm 5%-silver-solder and some drops of silver-flux
some normal solder.
a few drops of super-glue
a pair of pincers
a pair of scissors
a soldering-iron 60 Watts
drills : 1.5mm and 4mm
vernier callipers and steel rule (>60cm)
a clamp with weight.
My girlfriends sewingmachine
Electrical Ohm meter
Some Cellotape
1 meter of strong tough electrical wire
Two hands, a pair of spectacles, a glass of red wine and a cigar (but I come to that later..)

First I demolished the Eichmann Bullet connectors. 2.5mm from the centre connector I drilled a hole of 4 mm, 6 mm deep. Pre-drilled it with 1,5mm
Then I cut off 60 cm of the leather cord and glued one end in the hole with superglue. Now I prepared the conductors for soldering: I took the shoestring ,cut of the plastic ends and pulled out the cord in the centre of it. I used the brown shoestring for the signalwire and the black one for the groundwire.
To get my hands free for soldering (as any human being I was born with merely 2 of them.. if I would have three or more i would be very "handy" ;-) I placed the Bullit plug (without the cap) in the clamp



with the solder-lugs upward and towards me.
Then I a piece of 65 cm gold wire, 65 cm Siltech silver wire and about 10 cm of normal silver wire.

Some silver-flux on the solder-lugs before soldering helped the soldering with the 5% silver solder. (I hate it, I hate it, I hate it..). First I put one end of both silver wires in the thin ground solder-lug and soldered these with the 5% silver solder. Next, I shifted the gold wire about 5mm into the centre solder-lug and again soldered it with that horrible 5% Silver solder.
Time to place the cotton isolation around the Gold and Siltech silver conductors. For this, just folded back a few mm of the loose ends and slided it gently into the shoestring (don't cut the shoestring to length yet!) When the end reaches the plug, put a drop of superglue on the conductor and slide the shoestring over it and held it firm for a few seconds.. A few drops over the end would make the bond stronger. I rubbed the shoestring, from the plug to the open end, (so the braiding will be tight enough to secure a good isolation) and cut it of just where the conductor ended. Immediately it slided back about 10-15 cm. A drop of superglue on the conductor about 2 cm from the end will help to secure the cotton. I left about 5mm of the conductor uncovered..

The leather cord was pulled tight to wind the brown wire around it, to the right and towards me (I was at the open end). Every twist would be 8 cm. At the end, I secured with some cellotape.
Now I twisted the black wire around the leather core in opposite direction. If it is done nice, they should cross every 4 cm (at the upper- and downside). They did! Both ends where secured with some cellotape.
The shield was wrapped over the cable and stopped about 1 cm from the plug. To

connect this end i used the 10 cm silver wire that's still there. At about 15mm from the plug, I bend it around the shield, pulled it firmly under the bend and repeated it. Cut off the end. Folded the end of the shield back over this wire and rolled it a few times between my fingers so became as tight as possible. Secured it with normal solder as this flows much better than silver-solder.

Then, with both hands, I rubbed the shield, from the plug, tight around its contents. As I had to pull it through the leather sleeve I cut is off about 15mm past the internal cable-assembly and rolled a nice point on the end. Here i soldered the tough electrical wire for pulling it through the leather sleeve, which I sewed before. I made a few nice leather sleeves, just folding the strips double and sewing it with a fine stitch, just about millimetre from the side. After that I brand a TechGraphix logo on it about 10 cm from one side with a stamp, I had

milled in aluminum. This would be the side where the shield was connected. Before I forgot, I placed the plug-caps over the sleeve (back to back) and fiddled the pull-wire through the sleeve. Start with the branded side, Kees!! Now I was able to pull the cable into the sleeve. Left

about 1 cm from the plug open and turned the cap onto the plug. Secured it with the screw. This was so tight, it will stay secure.
Now, carefully, cut the shield about 15 mm before the end of the internal. I had to be sure NOT to cut anything else (i.e. the cotton or worse, the gold or Siltech conductor)
The cellotape had done its work so it would be removed now. The other Bullit-plug could be connected now so I secured the leather core in it with some superglue

(check the color.. one cable should have two red or two black plugs..)
Again: the only-two-hands-problem…Placed the plug in the clamp, same way as the other end before, put some silver-flux on the solder-lugs and

soldered the conductors with 5% silver solder (black on the small pin and brown on the centre-lug ofcourse..)
To finish the job I only had to slide the sleeve over the cable, leaving about 1 cm free and turn the cap in place.
Before putting it where it belongs, I checked if this cable was ok The centre of both plugs should be connected but not with small ground pin. Also checked the connection between the ground-pins. Just a few things to do: 1) Clean up the mesh 2) Connect the cables 3) Pour in a fine glass of wine 4) Light a cigar 5)Sit back and enjoy the sound of these new Fetish-cables.

And?.... where they worth every cent? Probably yes… Also I don't listen with my ears but what's between them (every audiophile has to admit he actually does the same, but who cares?)… These cables feel nice, look nice, smell nice so they are nice. Fact is I do hear more and it sound much more natural to me. It's something like wine: experts can tell you, from the smell and color where it came from and in which year it was destilled… I just drink it and like the taste or not, irrespective its price.. some $80 wine taste awfull and I can enjoy a $2 wine.. (Barbarian!!!) If I'm happy with it, then it's fine for me (usually it's quite expensive but that doesn't have to be so..) Forget it that my level is low..it simply has to be GREAT!!
This time lessons learned:
Mail at least 50 suppliers: prices do vary 1000% (or more) sometimes!
Check every act before you go on (every one has (at least once) soldered a plug and found the cap still on the table)
Peace of mind will manufacture great products… if it is not finished today, then tomorrow…. perhaps..

Regards,
Kees Soeters