

**TEST:**  
**HAGERMAN TECHNOLOGY "FRY BABY"**  
part II or how to "condition" cables

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**Why?**

As Marko wrote in his Fry Baby part I, you can still today find some people who don't believe in burn-in process. Though sometimes science cannot explain everything, it is so easy to hear the difference in sound during the burn-in process. From my experience, most people will agree that there is something about the speaker cable and interconnect burn-in; but when you try to explain them that power cables also need to burn-in they will most often think you're crazy, because my generally impression is that a large number of people don't take power cables for serious. For some reason, some people I know will spend 500 or 1.000 EUR on a pair of speaker cables, but won't pay much attention when it comes to power cables.

But, things are not that simple. I'm sure many of you have witnessed the misery, the process in which your new and expensive cables one day sound good, than other day sound awful, than other day sound average, than other day sound trashy etc. At the beginning, the first impression, a brand new cable will indicate its character, but in very shy way. After that, the diabolic troubles begin (not necessarily this way):

the soundstage splits, there's no focus; the second day, there's no bass; third day, treble is awful; the day after that, there's no depth in the soundstage, and so on and on. Just how many times did I desperately ask myself: "Oh you stupid, why on earth did you spend from couple of hundred to couple of thousand bucks on a pair of cables?". But that's the audiophile brain, who wants it all and now without any patience. So at the end, after say six or seven days of continuous burn-in, cable suddenly begin to play nice. All the struggle and misery that we went through is forgotten.

### **How?**

How long does it take for a cable to burn-in, that depends on various and many factors. Generally speaking, we're talking about say 100-150 hours, but there are so many examples where that's not enough, say in case of some silver cables. One of the factors is conductor, which means it's not the same if we "condition" copper, silver, alloy, carbon and so on. How long shall we burn-in cables also depends on conductor's purity and crystal structure. Next important thing is the dielectric (insulation) which in a way acts as a capacitor, so it will take some time until it gets a form. Last but not least, important factor is also the way the cable is composed.

All those above mentioned factors affect two things: the sound of a cables and how long will it take to burn-in.

If we have enough patience to burn in brand new cables, all it takes is to plug the say interconnect from say CD player to say preamplifier, press 'repeat', a wait for say 7-10 days.

You can also use say music with lots of dynamics. You can also use some special signals (say trigonal).

Speaker cables are hard to burn in, because you have to connect it between amplifier and speakers, which means you will harass your family members.

You can also use the old trick and connect a highwatt 8 Ohm resistor to the end of the speaker cable, and a resistor will act as a speaker, and you will avoid any noise this way.

To burn in a power cable, the best way is to connect it to an amplifier which should be ON 24/7 (which very often is not very smart in case you have a say tube amplifier). The best way to burn in a power cable is to connect it to a power amplifier.

### **Hagerman technology**

In case you had any similar experiences that were mentioned above or if you accept my experience, please keep on reading. As we've seen, lost of patience and time is required to burn in an audio component, therefore many hi-fi companies worldwide have tried to speed up this process. Say, I am familiar with the Nordost Cable cooker which is good but is also much more expensive than Fry Baby!

Fry Baby is equipped with all kind of connectors. Fry Baby as a unit has an OFF, MC, MM and LINE switch.

Fry Baby is actually a generator of specially selected and complex noise, and amplitudely modulated low frequency trigonal signal which constantly changes during "the treatment".

A full treatment will take 78 hrs. During the firs 24 hrs, cables are going through the voltage mode, which will condition the dielectric. Next 48 hrs, cables are going through the voltage mode which will condition the conductor.



### **The Result?**

As by of time of reviewing Fry Baby I didn't have any brand new cables, I treated and interconnect and a pair of speaker cables which by now have been playing for say 500 hrs. I didn't know what to expect, but I had no prejudices.

For six days I have been harassing my cables with the Fry Baby signal, than I plugged the Burmester test CD. The sound that came out of the speakers was in all aspect – BETTER. The color of sound didn't change, but colors were richer and clearer. The background of soundstage was completely dark, so it was easier to see the musicians and instruments. The character of instruments has become more natural.

Fry Baby is a very recommended component! Each and every serious audiophile should own it. Finally, Fry Baby will burn in a hi-fi component that you thought didn't need any burn in or conditioning.

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