



QED
AIRLOC™

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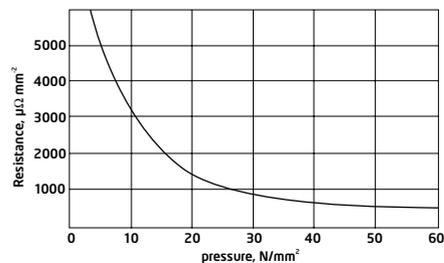
Introducing the new Airloc plugs and spades from QED

Airloc is a form of cold weld system that permanently attaches our 4mm Forte banana plugs to the entire range of QED speaker cables.

One of the main reasons for choosing a QED speaker cable is the superior dc resistance characteristics offered by our exclusive use of 99.999% oxygen free copper and in many cases 5 micron silver plating on the speaker cable conductors. It seems a shame then to ruin all this attention to detail by neglecting the most vulnerable area of the speaker cable chain - that of the physical interface between cable and amplifier/speaker terminals. In order to maintain channel tonal balance and minimise speaker cable resistance you should make sure that your cables are of equal length and that this length is the minimum needed to reach from the amplifier to the speakers. Your dealer can help by recommending the correct cable for your system and terminating the cables to the exact length required and by using the correct termination method.

Seen under a microscope the surfaces of two copper conductors are very rough and using normal screw type terminations electrical contact is only made in a relatively small number of places across the area of physical proximity. Add to this the resistive affects of a layer of oxidation - which is inevitable if copper is exposed to the air for even a short time - and the combined resistance of the cable and its termination can creep up to levels present in a more inferior cable.

By using a cold weld crimp type termination Airloc plugs squash the contact area so that the peaks and troughs are evened out. As can be seen in the graph below by the time the full pressure has been applied the resistance of the joint has reached a minimum value. Now because all the air has been removed from the joint there will be no oxidation of the contact surfaces either so the low resistance will remain for the lifetime of the cable. During the cold weld process the cable and plug become one solid piece of metal. Since the copper contact has been effectively removed from the resistance equation we can concentrate on the plug to terminal resistance.



What are Forte Plugs?

The plugs themselves are made of brass which has roughly twice the resistivity of copper. For this reason the 4mm banana plug was devised so that its cross-sectional area would be at least double that of the cable to which it was connected effectively cancelling out the extra resistance of the plug material. QED then plates the connector with high purity gold which has a resistivity almost as low as copper but more importantly does not oxidise in air.

The new Forte plug section is designed to maximise contact area throughout the wide tolerance range encountered in 4mm amplifier and speaker sockets. Here some are quite tight whereas others are loose, so the spring loaded Forte blade is designed to fit into smaller and larger sockets with equal insertion force. This means that the contact area is maximised and the connection remains uniformly tight through time and the plugs do not deform so that they eventually fall out or break.

Two ranges of Airloc Forte terminations are available priced depending upon the barrel material and termination type:

QED Forte guaranteed low resistance and strength - for life!

Please see the QED Lifetime Guarantee

