

# HIGH-WIRE ACTS

Guitar cables from Zaolla, Core One and George L's

By Eric Kirkland

The average guitarist puts more thought into choosing a brand of beer than he does a brand of guitar cable (and that's not saying much, Mr. Bud Light). But as any serious guitarist knows, not all guitar cables are equal. The cable's construction, conductors, insulators, length and hardware have an affect on signal integrity—which is why cables have roughly the same impact on tone that your guitar, amp and speaker do. While there's no single-best cable, a number of manufacturers have mastered the fine art of cable design. Here are three that can connect you to pro-quality tone at prices that won't drain your beer budget dry.

## Zaolla Silverline G-10 and G-20 Cables

Silver is a superior electrical conductor, but the metal's high cost has made its use in guitar cables impractical. Thanks to its low-cost sources, Zaolla Silverline is able to produce moderately priced guitar cables made with solid silver conductors. Silverline's G-10 and G-20 cables use stress-relieved gold-plated plugs and extreme levels of specially engineered shielding for superior tone and signal handling.

The Zaolla Silverline produced notes imbued with sparkling clarity, an essentially flat EQ and a

### KA-CHING!

**LIST PRICES:** G-10, \$72.00; G-20, \$115.00

**MANUFACTURER:** Zaolla Silverline, 6650 Caballero Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90620; (714) 522-8878; zaolla.com

barbarian level of signal strength. In turn, touch sensitivity was greatly enhanced, and previously inaudible tone details were illuminated. Although they are the priciest cables presented here, the Zaolla Silverlines pay you back with the wealth of tone buried inside your gear.

## Core One Bullet Cables

Core One's Bullet cables are built to last and, true to their name, feature plugs in the shape of a .44 magnum's shell casing. The Silver Bullet cable is made with multigauge copper conductors, braided copper shielding, an abrasion-resistant mesh jacket and chrome-plated nickel plugs. The 20-foot cable delivered a tame and neutral tone spectrum, with no spikes in any area of the response. No noise was evident, and the cable's high-end mesh jacket made it durable and easy to handle onstage.

Coiled cables are infamous for their capacitive effect, which rolls off high end. Core One's Bullet Coil cable is different. It uses high-end audio technology to maintain a powerful signal without the treble loss associated with high-capacitance coils. Bullet Coils also use gold-plated brass plugs and have a slick outer skin like that of vintage coiled cables. The 25-foot Bullet Coil hit hard in the mids, displayed

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**LIST PRICES:** 20-foot Silver Bullet, \$59.95; 25-foot Bullet Coil, \$69.95

**MANUFACTURER:** Core One, 1670 Beverly Blvd., #2C, Los Angeles, CA 90026; (213) 413-9381; coreone-product.com

excellent bass weight and caressed high notes without squashing them. Plus, it looks badass.

## George L's Cable George L's .155

Ever since George Lewis invented the high-end guitar cable, his George L's products have been the choice of famously particular players, including Eric Johnson. Unlike other manufacturers, George L's offers its cables as kits consisting of raw cable and plugs with solderless terminations. Players can cut the cable to their exact requirements and attach any of three rock-solid plug varieties in under a minute. Nonplated brass plugs deliver the most organic and balanced tone. The gold-plated plugs provide some bloom and midrange harmonic brilliance in the mids, while the nickel-plated connectors produce maximum treble attack and presence.

While these plug choices alter the nuances of tone, the cable's basic sound remains the same—an upper-mid accent that matches the guitar's natural voice, with rattlesnake-quick transients that place no limits on speed or articulation. What more could you want? ■

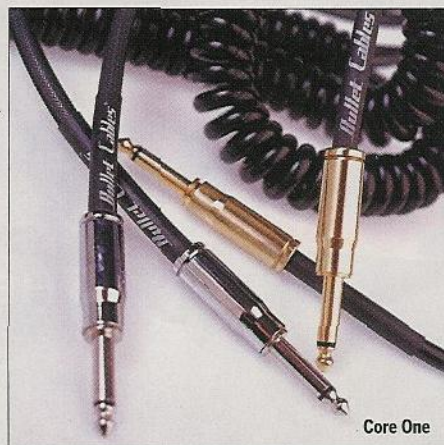
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**LIST PRICES:** Prepackaged 20-foot cable with non-plated brass plugs, \$33.00; black or red .155 cable, \$.90 per foot; nonplated brass or nickel-plated plug, \$4.98; gold-plated plug, \$6.50

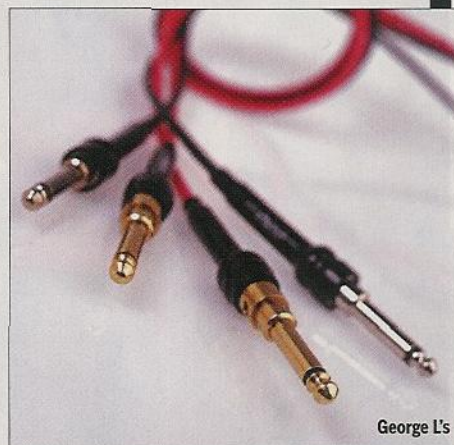
**MANUFACTURER:** George L's Cable, P.O. Box 238, Madison, TN 37116; (615) 868-6976; georgels.com



Zaolla Silverline



Core One



George L's