Recently upgraded, Frey 2 cable is the sweet-spot wire of Nordost's mid-priced Norse 2 collection. In truth it's actually only one player in a much larger bloodline that, in its complexity, begins to resemble the competing factions in *Game of Thrones*—the addictive HBO series overflowing with intrigue, swords, and sex. And like that TV show, the cables are christened with Scandinavian names that whisper of royalty and kinship. Nordost's four collections lead off with Leif and Norse 2, and ascend to reference-caliber Valhalla 2, and culminate with supreme reference Odin/Odin 2. Frey 2, though not quite a noble, is flanked in the House of Norse by Tyr at the top end, and finally, a couple of ranks lower by Heimdall 2. I know—it's complicated.

I spoke with Nordost's Jon Baker regarding changes that have elevated Frey to its current “2” status. Carried over are the silver-plated 99.9999% OFC copper solid-core conductors, but first among the Frey 2 upgrades are increases in gauge size: the speaker cable from 24 AWG to 22 AWG, and the interconnects from 26 AWG to 24 AWG. The WBT RCA connectors have been replaced by MoonGlo, but Neutriks still prevail for XLR. Additionally, the Frey 2 interconnect has adopted Dual Micro Mono Filament technology compared with its predecessor's Micro Mono Filament. Finally, new mechanical tuning algorithms have re-optimized the line as well. The Frey 2 power cable (successor to Brahma) uses a new proprietary connector, enhanced mechanical

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**SPECS & PRICING**

- **Price:**
  - Speaker $2924/pr. 2m
  - Interconnect $1459/1m
  - Power cord, $1679/1m

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Beyond mere surface reproduction and reveal the air and passages that are the hallmarks of this movement. Startling in the way it delineated these complex and powerful solar system’s largest planet “Jupiter.” In this aspect, Frey 2 were rich and refined, conveying the weight and mass of our orchestra—the low strings and winds—underpinnings of Nordost’s conductors and geometry.

However, Frey 2 (and to a lesser extent the fine, entry-level Purple Flare that I reviewed in Issue 236) has rebalanced the scales, taking the transient and micro-dynamic elements of the past and integrating them with richer mids and a brawnier, meatier bottom end that gives orchestral music more discernable atmosphere and weight. In a word, there’s more fidelity to the live event. A great example was the “Venus” movement from Holst’s The Planets [LSO/Previn: EMI]. Predictably, the Nordost reproduced the finer details like the tambourine with distinction right down to the last rattle. The solo violin, which is prominently featured, was still slightly forward, but more sweetly so and more warmly illuminated. Further along in The Planets, the deepest underpinnings of the orchestra—the low strings and winds—were rich and refined, conveying the weight and mass of our solar system’s largest planet “Jupiter.” In this aspect, Frey 2 was startling in the way it delineated these complex and powerful passages that are the hallmarks of this movement.

In this lofty class of cables I expected the presentation to go beyond mere surface reproduction and reveal the air and ambience both in front of and behind the players. In the case of the nouveau-bluegrass band Nickel Creek’s This Side [Sugar Hill], this was largely accomplished. I easily heard just how “clean” these acoustic players’ articulation was—the guitar and mandolin strings sang out with transient speed and authority. But I also noted the wave launch of energy propelling off the soundboard and at least right down to the last rattle. The solo violin, which is prominently featured, was still slightly forward, but more sweetly so and more warmly illuminated. Further along in The Planets, the deepest underpinnings of the orchestra—the low strings and winds—were rich and refined, conveying the weight and mass of our solar system’s largest planet “Jupiter.” In this aspect, Frey 2 was startling in the way it delineated these complex and powerful passages that are the hallmarks of this movement.

In my world—a little neck of the woods I call Reality—a cable of the class that the Nordost Frey 2 represents is a damned serious expenditure. However, its cost is commensurate with high-end systems in the $15k–$25k range, the sweet-spot for advanced audiophiles. In that context Frey 2 is an exceptional performer from a proven brand that through the decades has continued to evolve and improve. Audition with confidence. You will not be disappointed.