

HIDIAMOND DIAMOND I £110/3M



iDiamond's entry-level speaker cable, the Diamond I, utilises two conductors and uses an intriguing applied technology called VRC 4 (4 times copper cooked). The bottom line for this process is that the more you 'cook' your copper the purer, theoretically, it should get. The company declares that it cooks its copper twice as much as its competitors.

SOUND QUALITY

On the Sugababes' track, the Diamonds provided a bass that was slightly lighter in heft than the TCI but, on the other hand, a midrange

that was a touch smoother. The Diamond still retained some upper mid lift which added a shine to the vocal delivery so, during strong vocal harmony sequences, it revealed the inherent peak limiting. The midrange was not as harsh as the Audioquest but did have a slightly more strident aspect than the Luna.

Moving to the Sam Cooke vinyl, the upper mid lift added a seasoning of bloom to the Cooke delivery but there was plenty of energy and emotion in this ballad that was backed up by a tinkling piano, illustrating the Spot-lit midrange. Despite the relatively lighter bass response, the Diamonds did offer a

secure bass foundation that provided a great sense of musicality.

Although the midrange could have been a little more incisive, there was enough detail on offer to provide a relatively well balanced output. Treble, meanwhile, was highlighted to a degree that provided, if not a fragile delicacy, then at least tonally friendly cymbal effects.

Moving to the lively Cripple Black Phoenix and the Diamond showed its love of dynamic, high energy, music with this energetic prog-like, post rock piece. The portentous, robotic voice, that could be heard at the beginning of the album, was particularly clear while the lighter and quite recessed bass response was masked by the forceful lead electric guitar. The insertion, after the heavy guitar chords, of the mild mannered Mellotron synth sound contrasted well with the following acoustic guitar that successfully integrated the complex midrange elements which, although it could have been better defined, blended well with the rest of the track.



A cable that is greater than the sum of its parts with musicality as its strong point.

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FOR

- musicality
- balanced output
- forceful presentation

AGAINST

- recessed bass
- slightly strident upper mids