

TEST: HiDIAMOND, DIAMOND 8



text and photo: Marko Pecotic, July 2013

product: HiDiamond "Diamond 8" speaker cable

manufacturer: HiDiamond S.R.L., Italy [www.hidiamond.eu]

price: 2x2 m = 1.700 EUR, 2x3 m = 2.050 EUR

This is the third cable by HiDiamond reviewed at Audio puls in the last year or so. The first two HiDiamond cables that I have reviewed sounded excellent, I got the impression that only a few cable manufacturers at that price level have cables that can sound that good.

So, this is Diamond 8, their flagship speaker cable. It costs 1.700 eur, which is not cheap. Although, if you take a look what other cable manufacturers (Nordost, Kimber, Siltech...) are offering at that price level, you will find cables that belong to their middle class. But Ok, prices in high-end audio today are going crazy and sky high, and by the way- high price does not guarantee a good sound. The market in

general is full of average sounding products that have sky high prices. My point is: money does not guarantee a nirvana.

Just like the two previous HiDiamond cables I have reviewed, Diamond 8 looks impressive - the interior packaging is dressed in silk, and its' 27 mm thickness it is more reminiscent of a piece of a thick audiophile power cable.

Conductors are made by patented 4VRC technology, in which the copper is cooked 4 times at different temperatures in order to obtain a reduction in values of inductance, capacitance and resistance. Diamond 8 has 12 conductors with declared resistance 7,98 Ohm/km and capacity max 55 Pf/m. Isolator is XLPE (sort of polyethilen) which, as the manufacturer told me, is much better than Teflon. Cables are terminated with rhodium connectors, you can choose between spades and bananas. All other information about the production process can be found at this link [http://www.hidiamond.eu/en/technology-4vrcir --.html](http://www.hidiamond.eu/en/technology-4vrcir--.html)

Diamond 8, according to manufacturer, needs 200 to 500 hours to fully burn in. So, we're talking about 20 days 24/7. That might sound crazy, I don't know of a person who's willing to spend 20 days 24/7 to burn in a cable. Fortunately, this cable came to me with more than 500 working hours. I have reviewed this cable in two systems (the first system was open and detailed, the other was warm and less detailed).

The connectors on this speaker cables are not enough isolated, which means that they can easily make short if you (like me) prefer to change speaker cables while the amp is on, and connectors are mutually being touched when changing them. If you are careful and if connectors are not mutually being touched – nothing will happen. Otherwise, they can pop out fuses on the amplifier, or you can burn the amplifier if it has no fuse. The safest way, of course, is to turn off the amplifier when switching cables.



Sound

The sound of this cable is similar to previous two HiDiamond cables I have reviewed before. It sounds neutral, clean and crisp, leaning neither to warm nor to the bright side of the sound. Audiophiles often want their cables to serve as an equalizer (eg, to heighten the bass or to turn down the treble) which is not the case with this cable, don't expect this cable to correct the shortcomings of your Hi-Fi system.

You do not need much time to realize that you are listening to a good cable. It doesn't take much time to realize that this cable is good, you will hear it immediately after you plug this cable into your Hi-Fi system.

Very often audiophiles are confused and not sure what they are hearing with a certain cable that they got to try before buy, so they call their friends to come to their house to help them, and they also read the reviews on the web to get some suggestions ... There no such things with this cable, this cable is excellent and you will hear it immediately. I have absolutely no intention to write long stories about this sound, it sounds excellent, it sounds right, period. Hats off, this cable works brilliantly.

Comparison with Diamond 7 Speaker Cables

A special attention I have paid to the comparison of Diamond 7 and Diamond 8 speaker cables. Diamond 8 is 700 eur more expensive, has four more conductors and is almost twice

as thick. All of this in practice may or may not mean anything. I have previously described Diamond 7 as "perhaps the best speaker cable at that price range that I have ever heard."

So, Diamond 8 is overall better than Diamond 7: the vocals are larger; grand piano has a larger body and overall better dynamics; drum has a larger body, with more echo and more freshness, with longer sustain; bass pedal has more volume and groove; classical guitar sounds more natural with softer, clearer and fuller strings; the stage is bigger, you can easily hear the dimensions of the room in which the recording was made.