



Test: Kabel

Affordable Italian HiDiamond cables in the STEREO test

Inhalt

1. [Hersteller & Handel](#)

Spaghetti a l'Audiofilo – Already more than 20 years old, the Italian cable specialist HiDiamond is not very well known in this country. Bellevue Audio in Unna, the German distributor who also takes care of Cyrus Audio, wants to change that. So much in advance: In the test we encountered unexpected musical qualities.

HiDiamond Diamond 3 RCA:

Price: around 220 € (status: 06/16/2022)

HiDiamond Diamond 3 (LS):

Price: around 750 € (status: 06/16/2022)

06/17/2022 | Tom Frantzen

The HiDiamond cable brand was founded in 2000 by Dr. Salvatore Filippelli and has its headquarters near Rome. It is the largest and most important manufacturer of audiophile cables in Italy and in fact they manufacture everything themselves with great depth.

"Voodoo" is alien to the company, physics rules here, which is why HiDiamond is also able to carry out the most important tests in terms of the desired specifications, production consistency, safety and certification "in-house".

Cables are a hot topic, we are aware of that. However, we cannot seriously pretend that this periphery is not important. We've seen how the wrong set of cables can ruin a system, as well as how the right one can bring it to life. There is a saying that cables shouldn't "sound", but as a construct that intervenes in the electrical oscillating circuit of the system via numerous parameters, that's exactly what they do, namely as a kind of filter. And that's why it's not enough in terms of design to choose a nice colored jacket and "pull in" two or three conductors plus shield and then attach a sizeable price tag to it.

Diamond 3 RCA



One of the most important and most common connections is the cinch cable. HiDiamond presents the "Diamond 3 RCA" here, with two conductors made of 4VRC special copper in a shielded, eight millimeter thick jacket with XLPE dielectric. A very complete, musical cable for just under €230! Clear test result: **High End.**

Speaker Diamond 3



Speaker cables must be low-loss, which also relates to the damping factor of the driving amplifier. That's why the "Diamond 3" is at least twelve millimeters thick on the outside and has four strong stranded conductors made of 4VRC special copper conductors. Naturally, this also favors the offer for bi-wiring variants. With a full cross-section, the DC resistance is only 7.4 ohms per kilometer. With 750 € high sound value for the money! Clearly here too: **High End.**

Cables are physics, not voodoo

Essentially - there are a few more parameters, but that would go beyond the scope here - there are two physical variables that make the main contribution to cable quality. For everything that transports small voltages, this is the capacitance. In the equivalent circuit diagram, which represents a cable as a circuit made up of resistance, capacitance and inductance that can be measured on a cable, this would primarily be a capacitor. This capacitance should be kept as low as possible, especially with phono cables that carry even lower voltages, but also with connectors between other hi-fi components. The work of the devices is made easier if you do not pile up any capacitive obstacles in between. A low capacitance can be easily achieved with a very good dielectric and the structure of the cable, such as coaxial.

In the case of cables that are not only supposed to transmit higher voltages, but also currents and thus power – and with as little loss as possible – the opponent of the cable designer is, in addition to the ubiquitous DC resistance, which one encounters with conductor quality and cross-section, above all inductance. This is to be considered with priority for speaker and power cables, because the inductance opposes the current as a frequency-dependent resistance (impedance).

Furthermore, it should be noted in terms of construction that a cable does not show any capers in the phase response, i.e. does not lead to runtime differences over the transmission range, which brings us back to the "filter". Cables are not a trivial matter. Everyone who works with it knows that, especially the professionals. And the successful mastering studios in particular have increasingly implemented this in recent years. After all, success is no coincidence. We see cables as a finishing touch that can ultimately have an enormous effect on a valuable piece of furniture. Package inserts are more suitable for functional testing than for enjoyment. And the jump from the free liquorice snail out of the box to a serious cable - like the HiDiamond 2 or 3 - is arguably the biggest advancement you can make in cables. Above that, the audiophile increases are smaller, but also more expensive.

USB A-USB B



The USB cable is useful for connecting something like a D/A converter, streamer or amplifier to a Mac or PC. This color-conspicuous cable is also made of 4VRC special copper, has a very low capacitance (49pF/m) and a resistance of 66 ohms per kilometer, although of course it should be looked at completely differently from an analogue string. At the risk of being laughed at once again, because what must not be, "only data packets are transmitted" etc., this cable was able to outclass a standard connection in every respect. Despite all the alleged impossibility, it sounds more structured, more agile and multifaceted, less one-dimensional. Here, too, an accessory kit can slow down the performance, and a decent cable is worth it. €130 is undoubtedly not too much for that.

Diamond Fiber 1



Affordable kit

We have looked extensively at a rather affordable set consisting of the Diamond 3 RCA connector (230 euros), the Digital+ MkII coaxial digital cable (120 euros) and the Diamond 3 loudspeaker strips (750 euros), although it must be noted that HiDiamond is not in operates in some absurdly high price ranges. The cables all come from the middle price segment of the portfolio, which is not small, but rather tight and reasonable than overflowingly lavish. Audiophiles are happy to spend a few hundred euros if it pays off in terms of sound and is in reasonable relation to the system. I myself am no exception.

There was also an optical digital cable called Fiber Cable (90 euros), a Diamond 2 mains cable (400 euros) and a USB cable HiDiamond USB A to B (130 euros), which we traditionally do not expressly rate and give a category to , but at least tried it. A few more sentences on that later.

dr Salvatore Filippelli and his team of engineers rely on physics, including basic and applied research, especially when it comes to conductor material, they don't buy cataloged cable blanks from a big Asian store, which are then beautifully packaged and enriched with plenty of marketing. The location near Rome is particularly proud of the special treatment of the copper conductors in a kind of "baking process" in the oven, whereby the degree of purity and thus the conductivity is optimized. The process is called "4VRC". The jacket materials and the plugs are of exemplary quality, as is the workmanship.

We only found the textile bags around the speaker cable more pragmatic than high-quality, but the packaging is more of a show for all cables in the world and ultimately dispensable. Well, if that's all. In fact, these cables, which are still moderately priced, have to be counted among the best offers on the market, because they – one might almost say typically Italian – capture emotion and lifestyle, even celebrate the music. Of course, this is a question of coordination and composition, such as in the kitchen, and so the headline is not far-fetched at all.

Diamond DGT+MkII



The approximately six millimeter thick and quite flexible coaxial digital cable "Diamond DGT - MkII" naturally has a 75 ohm characteristic impedance and high-quality plugs. 2VRC special copper conductors with low capacitance (55pF/m) should ensure the best signal flow. Price: €120.

Diamond 2 Power



The same applies to the eleven millimeter thick power cable, although we have of course experienced this more often. The "Diamond 2 Power" is much more energetic than a standard string, even if the result naturally varies from component to component and therefore cannot be evaluated. The conductor cross-section of the in-house 4VRC special copper is 2.5 mm in four strands, which means a resistance of seven ohms per kilometer. It is double copper-

shielded to prevent interference and fitted with high-quality connectors. In practice, it turned out to be a high-quality power strip for €400.

Rich, colorful sound

The sonic fingerprint must be seen as a kind of family sound. It is characterized by a certain full-bodiedness, strong color and body paired with vitality and very good tonal balance. The feeling of a certain direction that arises with some other cables, for example "slim and fast", does not want to arise for a second. Here "Dolce Vita" rather than anemia is the order of the day, full life with all its facets - and it should be conveyed in exactly the same way. Even with the fine resolution - striking, for example, in the delicate reproduction of vocal subtleties such as the special vibrato and timbre of Roger Chapman in "Shadows On The Wall" - there is joy, but it is never an end in itself.

The compromise to the more expensive cables in the HiDiamond range is not to be found in the tonality, which is already pronounced good and neutral with a pleasant dash of warmth, but in a subtly possible increase in plasticity, authority and fine resolution higher up in price. However, nothing is missing, because as long as the chain does not "cry out" for compensation, which would not be a good starting point anyway, these cables ensure a very pleasant coherence. We are glad that we finally got to know these cables. An excellent vote!