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Diamond 8 Speaker Cables by HiDiamond



Similar to a Hollywood-style prop, something you may have found in an old Tarzan movie, Paul Rigby connects the Diamond 8's cables to his mono blocks and bends one ear

Big, meaty, bold, heavy – it's not the bass that these cables produce, it's the cables themselves! You certainly feel like you're getting your money's worth with these things. So, what's inside?

These cables, twisted inside to reduce noise, apparently feature a treated copper core known as 4VRC. According to the company, other companies 'cook' copper twice. HiDiamond apparently does this four times to improve the sound. The company apparently also adds graphite into the mix to act as a noise barrier.

You will also notice an isolator pod along the entire length of the cable itself. The company explained that it, "... cancels the skin effect between the individual cables and therefore the width of the musical signal barrier, ensuring greater linearity and low sine wave amplitude..."

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There were two points of connotation in terms of design. First, the cable isn't the most flexible unit I've ever tested. It didn't prove to be a major problem, but it was a bit awkward when trying to position the cables relative to the rest of my system and other adjacent cables. Second, the amount of cable emanating from the isolator pod to the speaker was relatively short. Again, the problem wasn't serious, but it could cause a lot of drag on the connections, depending on your hi-fi setup and speaker type. Again, neither point was an insurmountable factor, but both are issues to be careful of.



AUDIO QUALITY

I started the review by listening to an original vinyl of Richie Havens' *Something Else Again* on Verve and the song *From the Prison*.

Many hi-fi components offer an immediate personality when you hear them for the first time. It's a kind of first impression you might get when you meet a person for the first time. Afterwards, you learn more subtle aspects, but the first impressions tend to stick.

For this cable that first impression was concentration. The entire midband was honed on this track. This obviously included the vocals, which gave Havens' vocals some rhythm. There was no stuttering or average dragging here. Havens sounded fresh, after a good night's sleep. It was lively, ready for business, and ready to go.

What did this mean in practical terms? It meant that the voice sounded smooth and fast, with a lively voice and improved diction. So, any word I might have been uncertain about, those areas of the end of sentence that are missing details for example, were suddenly increased in clarity to facilitate recognition.

Similarly, the acoustic guitar was a precise instrument via the Diamond 8 cables. The plucks of the strings had a crisp bounce in their sound. An extra resonance with an extra touch of reverb at the end of the string. This effect added an extra boost to each string sound, while later, a more aggressive strumming by Havens produced a textured detail effect that almost scraped.



Switching to a CD pressing of The Police's *Ghost in the Machine*, I played *Too Much Information*, a much more dynamic and energetic track. On this song, the bass benefited from a lack of a smooth effect. Instead, the leads enhanced the character of the lower frequencies. This meant that the mids were also satisfied because the bass didn't mask midband detail. The overall result? The rhythm and tempo of the music was high.

Enhanced transients also helped percussion. Stuart Copeland's drumming technique was intense, full of precise knocks and rhythm rolls. These cables were perfect for this type of presentation because Diamond 8 projects could easily keep up. Some cables can drag on, ruining time. The Diamond 8 never had that problem.

I went back to using vinyl, with the recently deceased Nancy Wilson and *Now* from the 1976 LP, *This Mother's Daughter*. This is a rather complex arrangement that takes a jazz-funk sound on a full orchestra. The concentration of the Diamond 8 leads allowed the subtle, nuanced sounds of this arrangement to reach the ear intact, adding detail and rich flavor to the music.

CONCLUSION

Diamond 8 cables seem to give music a moral motivational speech because the sound output via these cables is always ready to taste and ready to use. The improved focus and precision give the presentation a touch and shine, infusing it with extra energy. With Diamond 8 cables, your music will always sound its best.

POSITIVE: Accuracy, Concentrated Mids, Lean Lows, Timing

NEGATIVE: nothing

SCORE: 8