

HiDiamond

Diamond 8 speaker cable



DETAILS

PRICE
£2,500 for 3m pair
WEBSITE
hidi-diamond.eu/en

As we go to press HiDiamond has announced that it will be replacing the Diamond 8 with the improved TOP Gold, costing £3,000. Look out for a special deal for *HFC* readers to get it at the reduced price of £2,500 in next month's issue.

OUR VERDICT



FOUNDED IN 2000, Italian manufacturer HiDiamond focuses on hi-fi cables and electronic equipment. The Diamond 8 speaker cable's conductors are made from 16x 2.5mm lengths of the company's 4VRC (Single Crystal Copper) (SCC 4VRC) copper wire, which has been temperature treated four times with the aim of reducing its inductance, capacitance and resistance. The conductors are insulated with an XLPE dielectric, which the company considers to offer significantly superior sound quality than Teflon.

HiDiamond notes that XLPE absorbs spikes better than Teflon, as well as reducing the skin effect between the individual conductors. Additionally, the conductors benefit from a special twisting within the cable, intended to provide a balanced and precise sound across the audio frequency band, coupled with a powerful bass

extension to produce a more natural sound. The cables are terminated with high-quality rhodium-plated connectors for better transmission. The cable can be terminated with either banana plugs or spades at each end. The cable is directional and this is shown by arrows on the break-out sleeves at either end.

Diamonds are forever

The Diamond 8 cable is quite a beast – subtle it is not! It would definitely have to sit directly on the floor. After connecting the cable between our valve monoblocks and transmission line loudspeakers, we start off with an Ace Of Diamonds LP of the Philharmonia Hungarica conducted by Antal Dorati playing Haydn's *Symphony No.55 in E flat, The Schoolmaster*. The Diamond 8 cables present a sound that is detailed, full

and open. The performance is dynamic, spacious and very musical, and there is no sense of the speaker cable restricting the signal to the speakers. The overall presentation is extremely real in the room.

Switching to Vivaldi's *Op.7* played by I Musici, the performance is easy on the ear, yet sprightly and energetic. The soundstage is wide and deep, and instrument placement is very clearly defined. The Diamond 8 delivers excellent results and is exceptionally well made. **NR**