

# Shining Diamonds

Italy's HiDiamond loudspeaker cables deliver a thrilling listen, says Jon Myles.



**H**iDiamond cables came as a bit of a revelation when I first heard them. The company is an Italian manufacturer which has been specialising in the production of interconnects and loudspeaker cables using their own proprietary techniques for the past 17 years but is only now starting to take a presence in the UK market.

I first tried their £60 entry-level interconnects the Diamond 1s earlier this year (Hi-Fi World March 2018 issue) and was impressed at how open and honest they sounded.

Now we have the Diamond 7s – a set of loudspeaker cables that stand higher up the range. At £990 for a 1.5 metre length they are not exactly cheap.

However the construction is undeniably impressive. There's a graphite/copper composite inner conductor which is shielded by a thick XLPE braiding.

Attached to these are rhodium-plated connector plugs with a locking mechanism to ensure a tight fit. Overall it means that Diamond 7s are a rather hefty cable – but they are quite manageable in tight spaces and easy to install.

## SOUND QUALITY

Swapping out my usual 'speaker cables and inserting the Diamond 7s brought an undeniable difference. These HiDiamonds are very true, very accurate and devoid of any colouration.

Used between an Icon Audio Stereo 30SE valve amplifier and the new Kanta N°2 floorstanding loudspeakers (see review this issue) they opened up a large, thrilling soundscape.

With Bruce Springsteen's 'Darkness On The Edge Of Town' the haunting melody was starkly defined with a crystalline clarity to the instruments. Using the same CD for 'Badlands' it was clear that these cables don't impose much of their own character on the sound. Bass pumped forcefully, Clarence Clemons' saxophone soared while Springsteen's guitar bit deep.

Instrumentation was also well separated: on Ornette Coleman's dense, heavy and congested 'Free Jazz' everything snapped into focus. I could hear and track plus all the musicians and there was coherence between them all.

On Olivier Messian's 'Quartet For The End Of Time' (24/96) the

timbral quality came over with outstanding brilliancy.

The clarity of these cables, though, does mean they will highlight any deficiency in partnering equipment. They are ruthlessly revealing and so need top-notch separates to work at their best. They'll certainly show-up poor recordings or heavily-compressed material.

But, partnered with the right amplifier and loudspeakers, there's a coherence and openness to their sound that makes them a joy to listen to.

Feed them some high-resolution tracks and the extra sonic information is evident. On Led Zeppelin's 'Dazed And Confused' (24/96) every leading edge of Jimmy Page's guitar solo leapt out of the 'speakers with crisp resolution. The decay of the notes also seemed to last a little longer making the whole listening experience extremely lifelike.

## CONCLUSION

These HiDiamond cables are not exactly cheap but they do deliver in terms of performance. Alongside a revealing amplifier and loudspeakers they are something of a revelation.

## HI-FI WORLD

**HiDIAMOND 7  
LOUDSPEAKER  
CABLES £990  
(1.5M)**



**OUTSTANDING - amongst  
the best.**

### VERDICT

A high-end 'speaker cable that is truthful and revealing. Capable of getting the best from top grade components.

### FOR

- clean, crisp performance
- build quality
- open mid-range

### AGAINST

- not cheap

Elite Audio Distribution  
+44 (0)1334 570 666  
www.eliteaudiouk.com