

Hi-Fi News

Feb 2010

Wireworld Solstice 6

This is another example of a cable that only dedicated enthusiasts are likely to accommodate due to its substantial 15mm diameter. Each conductor within this inflexible design is a flat-profile 'strip' made of multiple strands of oxygen-free copper (OFC) running parallel in a high-density polyethylene dielectric (HDPE). The combined cross-sectional area of each conductor strip is specified at a substantial 3.5mm² (12-gauge).

The strips are then twisted, Wireworld calling this construction its 'DNA Helix profile'. It's the twisting that greatly increases the cable's bulk before the conductors are sheathed in a PVC jacket with a pearlescent finish.

Marked for directionality, they are terminated with gold-plated, low-mass (and barrel-less) 4mm/BFA connectors. Enthusiasts may request gold-plated spade terminations if preferred.

LIGHTS, ACTION...

With a fast and crisp balance not dissimilar to that of QED's Revelation, the pitch and character of bass notes was refreshingly unambiguous. The sound 'picture' gave the impression that the lighting in the recording studio had been increased to a brighter level, its fresh balance providing a clearer window through which to observe Joni Mitchells' musical accompaniment.

Brass instruments sounded a little bleached but

extraordinarily clear so while its matter-of-fact presentation might not appeal to all, in our test system the ability to observe low-level detail made Wireworld's Solstice 6 a firm favourite. Rather than bloated and forgiving, bass was taut and well-defined, the speed of percussion and bass-playing adding pace and drama.

You'll need to be prepared to have dense, manufactured productions such as 'The Chain' completely torn apart. Compression caused by studio multitracking was not glossed-over by the Solstice 6, nor were high frequency 'nasties' gently disguised.

Backing tracks of guitars and keyboards were deliciously spotlighted by the Solstice 6 – a hi-res cable for hi-resolution systems.



£ 240/3m

hi-finews
OUTSTANDING
PRODUCT

HFN SPECIFICATIONS

Series Inductance (3m loop)	0.63µH
Parallel Capacitance	1.09nF
Series Resistance	34mohm
Loss (over 3m run into 8ohm)	0.037dB
Price (3m pair/per extra 1m)	£240 / £25

Sound Quality: 87%



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Wireworld calls its particular cable geometry DNA Helix. Wire strands are laid parallel within its proprietary dielectric to form a 'ribbon', designer David Saltz claiming that he can 'dial in' the electrical characteristics he desires for individual models by determining the spacing between the wires and the twist of the weaved ribbons.

Solstice 6 is a symmetrical design employing silver-plated OFC wires, each of the twisted pair of ribbons comprising a 3.5mm square conductor. Wireworld makes its own nickel-free OFC connectors too, Solstice 6 featuring the company's 'Gold Tube' RCAs with gold-over-silver plating which are claimed to offer

superior conductivity to gold-plated brass plugs. Silver soldered and with a silicone rubber tension band, the plugs have hollow centre-pins and distinctive outer shells of machined aluminium.

DEEP AND TAUT

Auditioned immediately after van den Hul's The Well, the immediacy of the image was initially startling. Subjectively the volume appeared louder while transients sounded fast and abrupt as the sharp clicks on the Diana Krall track leaped incisively out of the soundstage. The double bass was both deep and taut, while Diana Krall's voice sounded considerably less 'bloomy' and better delineated.

This sharper, more nimble sound worked wonders

with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's hoary rendition of 'Symphonic Dances'. The performance was brimming with enthusiasm and full of dynamic contrast. The tympani may have lacked body but it was crystal clear.

There was no smooth sheen here, the sound of the Dire Straits track displaying a more electronic 'edge'. Mark Knopfler's vocal delivery was easier to decipher thanks to the open sound quality and the acoustic guitar sounded clear and snappy. Yet the crashing crescendos of electric guitar and cymbals became shrill. And while the reverberant bass notes and drums had their customary power and depth, with reduced overhang, they sounded less weighty.



£ 66/1m

HFN SPECIFICATIONS

Series Inductance	0.67µH
Parallel Capacitance	244pF
Resistance	207mohm
Leakage (DC, 1m)	>100Mohm
Price (1m pair)	£66

Sound Quality: 74%

