

Wireworld Platinum Starlight 7.0 USB Cable

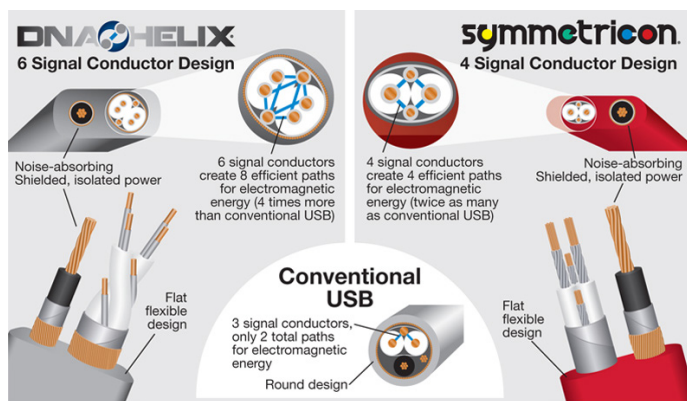
Platinum Starlight 7.0 is Wireworld's newest flagship USB cable, and as such, no expenses were spared when designing this cable, with price to match. One thing that may ease the pain of the price tag is the jewel-like construction as well as a beautiful flight case that the cables arrives in. Only the top two USB cables, Silver Starlight and Platinum Starlight, utilize their "DNA Helix" geometry whereas lesser cables are built using their "Symmetricon" geometry.

cables to USB cables even though the frequency of signal and type of information carried seem to have nothing in common. For example, Cardas Clear's pure copper design does represent well the traditional analogue world's prediction of rich tonality and ample bass while DH Lab's silver-coated copper still has a hint of that "sheen," or extra detail, in upper-mids that is thought to be common in silver-plated designs.



Will Platinum Starlight 7.0 follow the same unscientific trend?

drive is top notch here, without blurry overhang anywhere.



Well, it turns out the answer is more yes than no. Using 23 AWG pure silver conductors to make analogue interconnects often predictably results in a cable with very fast transients, precise localization and soundstaging, wonderful sense of air, and clean purity. In the USB application, that

What's the catch? Well, the largest one is obviously the price, and sonically, there is still no guarantee that a given audiophile will find this cable to be the proverbial Holy Grail in a particular system. For example, true to the low-gauge, low-skin-effect, silver lore, the overall sound is not as warm as some pure copper designs, and the bass, while super-defined and impactful, does not subjectively sound as bassy as some others. So systems that already err on the wrong side of the warm-cool line and sound too squeaky clean to begin with may not be the best complement for the Platinum Starlight 7.0. Then again, for more neutralish systems or ones that veer a bit too much to the warm and fuzzy side, this cable may just be the ticket to musical bliss.

Further reading reveals that Silver Starlight uses silver-clad signal conductors while Platinum Starlight differentiates itself with solid silver signal conductors, of which both cables use six, compared to the usual two conductors in generic USB cables. More numerous signal conductors are said to create 8 "efficient paths for electromagnetic energy. Four times more than conventional USB". Combined with patent-pending, symmetrical helix arrangement, Wireworld claims the Platinum Starlight 7.0 is the first USB cable to exceed 10.2 Gbps transmission speed.

is exactly how the Platinum Starlight 7.0 sounded. This cable's calling card is precision and space, which is better than any other USB cables I have tried so far; it just sounds like it has a ridiculous amount of transmission speed in reserve and is using only a tiny fraction of it to feed the DAC. Space opens up all round the room, with previously-vague voices and instruments precisely and solidly located in proper places, well separated from each other without blurring or overlap.

Another important design detail is the power-carrying conductors, which are well separated from the signal conductors and shielded independently, with some sort of noise-absorbing material used around the conductor. Wireworld finishes off the substantial design with beautifully crafted carbon-fiber USB connectors at cable ends, ready to play.

Many audiophiles seem to associate silver with "bright," but this must be a vestige of days when poor-quality silver-plated, stranded copper wire gave silver a bad name. Often, quality silver wire, especially solid core, sounds smoother than copper with better control over peaky frequency deviations and less blurring. This is the case here with Platinum Starlight 7.0, which is ultra-smooth, even creamy in texture, with that recognizable lilting quality to vocals which is so addictive. Percussion starts and stops like laser, and there is absolutely no bloat or mushy veil over the musical soundscape. Sense of PRAT (Pace, Rhythm and Timing) and

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Tonality | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Sub-bass (10Hz - 60Hz) | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Mid-bass (80Hz - 200Hz) | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Midrange (200Hz - 3,000Hz) | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| High Frequencies (3,000Hz On Up) | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Attack | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Decay | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Inner Resolution | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Soundscape Width Front | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Soundscape Width Rear | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Soundscape Depth Behind Speakers | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Soundscape Extension Into Room | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Imaging | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Fit And Finish | 🎵🎵🎵 |
| Self Noise | N/A |
| Value For The Money | 🎵🎵🎵 |

In comparing USB cables, what is puzzling is how similar materials and designs carry over the sound signatures from analogue