

LINKED BOXES

In this month's cable round-up Hi-Fi World's wire master listens to two 'speaker cables for the serious minded upgrader.

The Power +4 is an entry level 'speaker cable in the company's range so this is no budget minded operation and the product has to work at this price sector. It comes with forked connectors that whilst a bit fiddly, ensure a good signal when connected. Not much in the way of technical specification was available to us but there is heavy screening and sheathing involved and capacitance claims to be very low. There are two conductors, each made of eighty 0.22mm copper strands. The company claim to concentrate, among other things, in relaying realistic dynamic information. The outer layer is a very flexible, black PVC jacket and it's worth noting that Italians even like their cable to look and feel good - it's very well constructed and nice to the touch. To top it all, it even comes in a highly desirable and stylish blue drawstring suede bag!

This is impressive cable, especially in terms of transparency and openness. The soundstaging is wide and clarity is tip-top. In Das Lied von der Erde, the orchestra was very natural sounding with no synthetic timbre or harshness. The +4 cable managed to marry fine low level detail and good dynamics with a sweet treble that did not grate - violins were very rich, yet high percussion open and sparkling. Whilst not up there with the Mahler piece for ultimate showmanship, the Hi-Diamond made good work of Beth Orton's folkly warblings and acoustic guitar strumming. Vocals were very impressive and natural, yet also well controlled and balanced perfectly with the rest of the mix. Not cheap then, but a good performer, the Hi-Diamond range judging from the +4 promises much.

**HI-DIAMOND POWER +4 £110
PER 2 METRE PAIR
(TERMINATED)**



Exotically named Hi-Diamond hail from Italy. Although we're well aware of Italy's hi-fi industry, this is the first cable manufacturer from the nation of opera that we've encountered.

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