

Dynamic Duo

John Pickford hooks up with a dramatically different speaker cable.

We're in serious speaker cable territory here. At 5p shy of £450 for a 3m terminated pair the Oasis 8 is a long way from the eye-watering prices of Wireworld's - and other notable manufacturers - flagship cables, yet in a different league altogether from simple, low-cost 79-strand wire.

Oasis 8 is heavy duty and quite

stiff, as you might expect from a cable at this performance level, and the electric blue colour is visually striking, so not for those who need to run cables along skirting boards discreetly.

They are constructed using Wireworld's patented DNA Helix technology, which eschews the common method of twisting strands of wire together and instead allows the strands to run parallel within layered flat

conductors. This is claimed to reject interference and reduce the unwanted effects of eddy current resistance, which increases as strands are twisted.

While the company's more exotic (and expensive) cables are made with silver wire, the Oasis 8 uses oxygen-free copper and the review pair came terminated with Wireworld's Uni-Term silver clad banana plugs; spade connectors are also available.



Insulation material is another proprietary design called Composilex 3, which is claimed to minimise triboelectric noise better than standard insulation material. At the end of each length of cable is a hard plastic shell, from which the connectors emerge. One shell is marked Amp End and the other Speaker End, so the Oasis 8 is a directional cable.

SOUND QUALITY

I installed the Oasis 8 between my Naim Nait XS3 integrated amplifier and Rogers LS3/5a loudspeakers using both vinyl (Goldring Lenco GL75) and hi-res digital files as source material. This system is usually linked with QED cables, with the XT40i speaker cable costing a third of the price of the Oasis 8. So is the Wireworld cable three times as good as the QED? It certainly dramatically reveals

fine detail vividly, creating an added sense of space around individual instruments and voices.

Most notable however is the cables' dynamic expression, which highlights subtle shifts in level the QED wire smooths over. The effect is startling at times, particularly when listening to familiar recordings. Drive My Car from The Beatles' Rubber Soul LP (Parlophone mono 1965) features a rise in the level of the backing track as the guitar solo kicks in. I know this very well, however on this play-through I could visualise the engineer moving the fader rather than just hearing a sudden jump in volume. Time and again, as I listened to an assortment of familiar rock, jazz and folk music, my attention was drawn to filigree detail and micro-dynamics, making for a highly revelatory experience - it took some getting used to!

Switching to my main system, which incorporates a Chord Shawline cable loom, I linked the Leak TL12 plus amps to the Tannoy Berkeleys with Oasis 8. Here, it was more a case of different rather than better in terms of performance. Again, attention is focused upon the high drama of dynamic expression, while tonally the cable has a slightly drier and more finely etched sound than my reference cable, which is fuller in the bass and sweeter throughout the treble region.

CONCLUSION

An interesting design that differs from the norm, the Oasis 8 is a well-made, high performance cable that performs exceedingly well at its price point. Well worth considering if your system could benefit from an injection of dynamism.



WIREWORLD OASIS 8 SPEAKER CABLE £449.95

(3M PAIR)



OUTSTANDING - amongst
the best

VALUE - keenly priced

VERDICT

A serious speaker cable offering fine detail and insight along with vividly delivered dynamics.

FOR

Dramatic dynamics
Excellent resolution of fine detail
Quality of construction

AGAINST

Visually indiscreet

www.wireworldcable.com