



MY AUDIO DESIGN DIAMOND SIGNATURE £ 640/0.5M

This unusually named company is run by Timothy Jung. Tim takes an obsessive interest in materials technology and manufacturing processes, almost to the extent that he regards the commercial retail side of his business as an annoying distraction, which in my experience runs counter to the approach of many other cable companies! The Diamond Signature is hand crafted with four "99.9997% ultra pure Diamond Die Silver" strands, said to be the highest

purity available to the commercial world. It is apparently extremely labour-intensive to make, using a "Quad Cross Weave" to combat RFI. Extruding the silver conductors from a diamond die is claimed to eliminate corrosion, oxidation and contamination from the manufacturing process, ensuring the highest purity of the Silver. "The best medical-grade ultra thin PTFE dielectric" is used, as is DeoxIT on the connectors of this, the company's flagship model.

This is certainly a distinctive sounding interconnect, possessing one of the most open and accurate top ends I've heard at almost any price. Duran Duran's 'Lonely in Your Nightmare' is a fussy pop production, full of early eighties studio trickery, yet the MAD cable cut through it like a hot knife through butter, making my current mid-price reference cable, the (admittedly £150 cheaper) Missing Link Link Cryo Reference interconnect actually sound quite diffuse. Given the great quality of the latter, I wasn't prepared for the extra treble clarity the Diamond Signature was bringing - I could even hear the tape hiss running all the way through the song. It's an amazingly

fast and transparent sounding cable, one which seems to have little or no overhang; instruments start and stop with tremendous alacrity. The midband is superb too, although here the MAD was less obviously superior and better described as 'different'. Whilst it made the Missing Link cable still seem quite opaque by comparison, the Link Cryo seemed a touch more dynamically explicit and rhythmically animated sounding. In no way could the MAD cable be called slow, but it seemed more interested in rendering the recorded acoustic to the highest possible resolution, whereas the ML focused more on getting into the groove. Bass was brilliantly taut and supple, but slightly less weighty than the Missing Link. Overall, this is an exceptional cable design, but you should be aware it's all about mouthwatering insight and slightly less concerned with guaranteeing the listener a cheery time. It needs superb ancillaries and top notch recordings to work with; given these it will take your breath away. **DP**

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soundbites

CLEARER AUDIO COPPER LINE ALPHA POWER HUB £65+

Designed to be "a first class entry-level power supply solution for both hi-fi and home cinema systems", the Copper-line Alpha Power-HUB is manufactured from high quality extruded aluminium, and comes directly hard-wired with Copper-line Alpha Power Cable. The large socket contacts are made from copper alloy, providing low impedance. High purity large gauge 2.5mm² conductors are used internally, capable of carrying currents of up to 26A (6000W). A new active filtration mains noise system called Hyperion is fitted, using two high performance capacitors to filter both common-mode and differential-mode noise, and it's said to allow over 17A (4000W) of continuous current delivery. Status LEDs show that the HUB is powered and the

Hyperion system is active. A new feature called Earth-View constantly monitors the ground integrity; should the integrity of the ground become compromised then the status indicator will go out. There's also the company's Gatekeeper Surge Protection which only activates when a surge or transient occurs. All three channels (live-neutral, live-earth and neutral-earth) are protected with surge currents of up to 10,000A being clamped in less than 25 nanoseconds, the company claims. Prices start at £65 for a 4-way, including 0.5 inlet cable, and there's a sixty day money-back guarantee.

Sound quality is excellent for such a budget product; I found this compared very well with any sub-£200 power block I've come across. It's very clean sounding, presenting a satisfyingly 'hash-free' sound in my own room. Treble proved nicely

sweet, midband expansive and open and bass decently tight and propulsive, even if it wasn't quite the most impactful I've heard. Still, an excellent all round product at the price. **DP**

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