

A Sliver of Silver

Silversmith

Audio

Silver Speaker Cables

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I hate to sound like a broken record but then again the truth hurts. Yes, Silversmith Audio has done me in and has condemned me to yearn for a cable that to me is the best that I have come across. Silver cables have a bad reputation of sounding bright to many. However, I feel that the revealing nature of the silver itself as it is the best electrical conductor known to man (except for those very low temperature superconductors with almost zero resistance that are only found in science labs). I honestly feel that the cables on demo here is the best that I have used (and also the most expensive!!)



Silversmith Audio's design philosophy is simple. The design should be simple so as to eliminate or reduce all known or suspected causes of sound degradation. In other words, the cause of skin effect that was exposed by one Malcolm Hawksford. He exposed the existence of an energy storing mechanism that he calls inductance or self-inductance and that this is the primary source for sound degradation in a cable. A way to overcome it is to use a very small round conductor or a very thin ribbon conductor. The former is incapable of handling high current loads so Silversmith Audio adopted the latter for their cables. A single conductor per polarity - an ultra-thin

ribbon of pure silver, seamless from end to end, without traditional solder or crimp connectors, and encased in an extremely thin wall Teflon(tm) tube system designed to maintain a primarily air dielectric. Each foil is surrounded by loose fitting convoluted tubes of Teflon, which is said to be in physical contact with less than 1 percent of the silver ribbon (it is 3 percent for the interconnects). The Silversmiths are "cold-rolled" into a ribbon. This process elongates the grain structure without using heat (heating the material would break down the grain structure), which produces a more durable ribbon with uniform properties. Each silver foil is only 0.17mm thick and is

18mm wide. The thickness is significantly thinner than a 20kHz signal depth according to the designer. The width approximates a 13-gauge cable and is capable of handling 20A of continuous current!

There are no terminators since the cables are connected 'bare foil'. So you don't have to worry about plugs and spades adding colouration to the sound. This is as pure as it gets.

What the cables do is very simple; it just gives you more of every thing. More space, more detail, more depth, more transients; just more of everything positive that you can think of. To say that the cable is sweet would not do it justice. Is it coloured? I'm



sure it is but I've yet to put a finger on it. How can you define its colouration when all it does is to allow your loudspeaker to unravel all that is ahead of it? Yes, I heard things that I didn't know to exist in my recordings! And this is with a \$1500 monitor bookshelf! So much for the loudspeaker being the most important component in a hi-fi system. Bass took on an additional octave and I kid you not. It seemed that the Silversmiths allowed my loudspeakers to really show its mettle. Imaging was the best that I have heard with instruments bereft of an overly tight presentation. Yes, you could hear the ambience of the recording venue and this is no BS! This allowed better recordings to sound as good (or bad) as

heard more faults in my system! Damn, it is probably time to upgrade again. Oh woe is I. I never knew how good (and bad?!) my system could sound like until these cables went through my hands. It was bad enough to have listened to the interconnects (I-Audio Vol2 No7) but to have this in hand ... this is one hell of a cable.

But sad to say that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Even the Silversmith has its flaws. (I am only nit picking here.) The cables have no terminators that we are used to for they are the continuation of the cable itself! This is similar to bare wire connection but in this case, bare foil. Each end is notched that would fit many binding posts except for those fat ones. Being wide

what the engineers wanted. Again through Big Joe Maher's 'Mojo' the spatial information was more perceptible and made the overall experience even more enjoyable. No smearing, no excessive instrument decay, no prominent high frequency emphasis, in fact I

(18mm), you would need careful arrangement of the termination to avoid a short. That's it. But for those who can afford them will definitely have more than enough space to accommodate the cables. Furthermore, if your system is not up to it, you won't be enjoying them. If your system is already bright, it will sound brighter and harder. If it is warm, it will sound messy and slow. If it is already fast, you'll run out of the room.

So who qualifies? Those that have already assembled an excellent system to their liking and want that extra bit of detail without breaking the bank. But for those who want to use the Silversmiths as a remedy to plug gaping holes in their system, they are not for you but hey, it is your money. What I dare say is this, if you've already possessed the best, the Silversmith will be the icing on the cake. You will never want anything less.



RRP: from \$800 pfr/pr

Note: In the event that the foil ends do get ripped, Silversmith Audio will repair them. Contact Sound Decisions to avail of this service.