

INTERCONNECT CABLE OF THE YEAR

Esprit Beta interconnect | Reviewed in Issue 177



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rilliance in cable design need not come from the wellknown brands, and it need not cost a fortune. French company Esprit's secret to overnight success is simple; spend decades honing your product line! The Beta interconnect cables use 720 strand high-grade copper conductors. The Beta interconnects use a partial shield and although an electrically symmetrical design, the Beta cable uses an asymmetric dielectric (PVC on one conductor, silicone on the other), with an air layer insulator. The asymmetry is seen in a cross-section of the cable, rather than an asymmetry along the cable's length. Esprit's cables make a very lithe sound leading from the midrange out, with a sublime sense of vocal articulation without faux leading-edge impressiveness. Beta represents a good starting place for the brand, not only financial reasons, but also because many of the company's core concepts start at this point, and the materials science stays constant throughout. There's no shields of unicorn hair or magic metals throughout the range; just good, honest PVC, silicone, air, copper, and silver.