



INTERCONNECT CABLE OF THE YEAR

Esprit Audio Gaia



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Each conductor in Esprit Audio's Gaia interconnect cable is made of thousands of minute high-purity oxygen-free copper strands, bundled together into ten separate groups. The layout of the cable is deliberately asymmetric (right down to the asymmetric use of dielectric materials depending on polarity), with positive and negative conductors individually jacketed and braided around one another. It is a semi-shielded design, but also the outer jacket RF controlled through ferrite rings. The cable's insulators are then polarised by use of a small battery box at the 'from' side of the cable. This uses the DC bias to create an anti-vibrational effect as well as to improve efficiency of said insulators. All of this is the product of extensive listening tests by Esprit.

While Gaia takes an incredibly long time to break in, the cable gives you a good glimpse of how the finale is going to sound during the overture, and the improvement is a steady progression rather than a punctuated equilibrium or a roller-coaster of good and bad. It's worth persevering though, because Gaia is so good. Alan Sircom said of the French cable, "What I like about Gaia (and what I like about Esprit in general) is the tonal balance. The cable is just the right side of rich without it being overly warm or too cuddly sounding." Also pointing out that the, "Soundstage is also outstanding, although it's actually merely one outstanding part of an all-over outstanding performance." Alan also liked that it was egalitarian and generous in approach, "If you have a warm, euphonic sounding system, a heavily beat-oriented system or a system that attempts to recreate soundstage depth, detail, coherence or what have you, Gaia is there for you." He concluded by saying, "Everyone wants a seat at the top table, and not all who get there really deserve to be there. Esprit Audio Gaia is more than deserving of such a place." +

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