



Factory-terminated OCC copper loudspeaker cables  
 Made by: Atlas (Scotland) Ltd, Kilmarnock  
 Supplied by: Atlas Cables  
 Telephone: 01563 572666  
 Web: www.atlascables.com  
 Price: £5995 (3.0m terminated stereo set)

**AUDIO  
FILE**

# Atlas Arran Transpose

While audiophiles might ordinarily associate the 'home of the brave' with Linn Products, Scotland is also home to the hand-made Atlas Cables. Its new Arran interconnects and speaker cables are a clear evolution, taking inspiration from its solid silver Asimi range [HFN Dec '18], utilising the same geometry but with OCC (Ohno Continuous Casting) copper.

The more affordable Mavros range also uses OCC copper but contains a mix of solid and stranded conductors. In common with the Asimi flagship, the Arran speaker cables (priced £4795/2m and £5995/3m sets) get closer to the ideal of a 'single' solid strand with an air dielectric. In practice, each signal/return conductor comprises

*'Its coaxes the most compelling, colourful musical pictures'*

six OCC copper strands, four at 1.2mm<sup>2</sup> and two at 1mm<sup>2</sup>, each strand shrouded in a cotton weave with microporous PTFE tape atop.

The six strands are then twisted and held in more PTFE tape, packed in a cotton filler and screened with an alloy/mylar film and woven copper braid. Running through the screen are two drain wires, 180° apart, and connected to the Grun terminal [see picture, below], which should be routed to a dedicated earth or equipment chassis.



A soft PVC covering and royal blue fabric completes what amounts to a reassuringly heavy but not especially compliant cable. Atlas's Lux leather sleeves are a further £275/m option. The 'Transpose' termination is crimped directly onto the copper conductors and will accommodate a wide variety of end plugs. Your choice doesn't affect the cable's lumped parameters, including the impressively low 7.3mohm/m series resistance, the 0.008dB/m power loss and low 98pF/m capacitance.



## OHNO? OH YES...

We experienced the impact of Atlas's Arran with both the DALI KORE [p92] and Wilson Audio Alexia V [p104], via a Constellation Centaur II 500 amp [HFN Dec '19] and were struck on both occasions by just how transparently it 'stepped out of the way'. Ultimately this is what we all want from a cable: to open up the sound of our systems to their fullest potential without shining a light, or drawing the curtains, on any particular aspect of performance.

So jazz trumpeter Gabriel Mervine sounded as vital and potent, and yet as intimate as you might care to imagine with his backing trio on *Say Somethin'* [Octave Records; DSD64]. The brassy rasp was immediate and yet the ambience remained warm and close – coaxing the speakers to render their most compelling and colourful musical pictures.

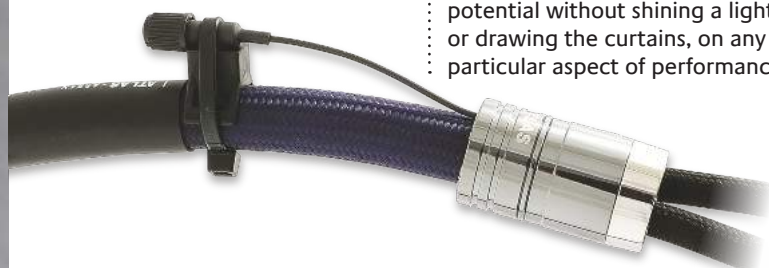
Low resistance also brings deep and powerful bass – with sympathetic ancillaries. And so with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's 40th anniversary recording of Wagner's *'Siegfried Idyll'* [Linn CKD540; 192kHz/24-bit] the sound was richly detailed, as it should be, at once sweet, clear and with striking instrumental power and textures. Whatever the album, Arran sets the tingle factor to max.

## VERDICT

If you are seriously contemplating a no-nonsense high-end cable upgrade then the Arran should be one of a mere handful of contenders on your radar. It is exceptionally well-built and finished, presents no wayward electrical properties and, as important, provides a potent foil for the all-silver Asimi which is significantly costlier. It will reinforce everything you already love about the sound of your system. ☺

**ABOVE:** Arran is a heavyweight cable of limited flexibility. The 'Transpose' plugs allow a wide range of user-specified connectors to be fitted, including expanding 4mm bananas, Z-plugs and spades

**BELOW:** Signal and return conductors are supported at each end by an alloy barrel. One end has the Grun termination – the black plastic cap unscrews to reveal the ground connection



## HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Series Inductance (1m loop)	0.47µH
Parallel Capacitance (1m)	98pF
Resistance (1m loop)	7.3mohm
Leakage	40Mohm
Power Loss (8ohm speaker)	0.008dB/m