



ATLAS MAVROS RCA £650

Price's *First Law of Cable Dynamics* holds that the sound quality of an interconnect is generally in inverse proportion to its physical quality – which should mean the Mavros as likely to sound dreadful, as it's absolutely beautifully built and finished. Indeed, the solder-free Ohno Continuous Cast RCA phono plugs frankly should be worn by beautiful actresses at gala dinners or awards ceremonies, rather than sit stuck into

the back of an amp. The cable itself uses a bespoke microporous PTFE dielectric together with OCC copper conductors, (7N) 99.999997% pure. The dielectric is said to give up to 85% greater velocity of propagation, the maker claiming this makes the cable sound 'faster', especially in the area of high frequencies.

Yet the Mavros sticks two fingers up at my rule about superbly finished cables sounding poor, turning in a brilliant performance. It's quite

distinctive, being tonally dry and neutral; it doesn't rose-tint the signal passing through it, yet it's transparent enough to give great insight into the sonic flavour of a recording. You can certainly hear the difference between 1970s Stax and 1980s ZTT recordings, for example! But what struck me most was indeed its speed – the Mavros is a remarkably pacey performer. It positively rockets along, conveying the biting attack transients of strummed steel string guitars in Tears For Fears' 'Pale Shelter' with dazzling impact. Yet it doesn't achieve such incision through an artificial edge to the upper midband – it's very smooth and couth. Ultra grippy yet unerringly neutral, it's got to be one of the very best cables I've heard at the price, and indeed it reminds me of the far more expensive Furutech Lineflux RCA in many ways. The cable equivalent of an adrenaline rush, this is ideal to pep up pedestrian sounding high end systems, yet will never add brashness. Highly recommended. **DP**

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