



SPEAKER CABLE

Silver speaker cable
Made by: Atlas Cables, Scotland
Supplied by: Atlas Cables
Telephone: 0800 731 1140
Web: www.atlascables.com

AUDIO
FILE

Atlas Asimi (£6300/terminated 2m)

Made to match the fabulous Asimi interconnect, Atlas's Asimi speaker cable employs similar construction and highest purity silver conductors for an explicit resolution

Review: **John Bamford**

If you have pockets deep enough to afford the system of your dreams it's unlikely you'll be skimping on the quality of connecting cables. In the world of state-of-the-art audio there are no bounds to which cable manufacturers will not go to make the most transparent wire humanly possible. TEO Audio's 'liquid metal' cables are a case in point, costing nearly £10k for a 2m run of speaker cable and rising to around £100k for a 10m set [HFN Dec '09]. Only footballers, oligarchs and investment bankers need apply...

From its Kilmarnock base Atlas is headed up by industry veteran John Carrick, retired owner of the Ariston turntable. Since its formation in 2002, Atlas has established itself as one of the UK's leading cable manufacturers, with designs to suit all pockets. For example: its Equator 2.0 MKII is priced at £99 for a 3m pair and offers exceptional value. But Atlas makes bespoke high-end cables too, topped by this new Asimi speaker cable to complement its flagship (£2500 for 1m) Asimi interconnect [HFN Dec '09]. In Asimi speaker cables the Ohno

Continuous Cast (OCC) conductors are of 6N (99.9999%) silver, each cable leg having two strands of three different conductor diameters (ie, six strands in all) with an equivalent cross section of 3.5mm².

The insulator is the same microporous PTFE dielectric used in the Asimi interconnect, the finished cable surrounded in a PVC jacket and woven cotton outer braid. Overall diameter is a chunky 16mm, however the cable is highly flexible and easily 'dressed' in a system installation. Standard termination is with cold-welded proprietary 'Z-plugs' (hollowed-out 4mm bananas) made from OCC copper and silver plated, although spade connectors can be specified for a premium.

'Asimi delivers a vibrant, powerful yet refined performance'

THE SOUND OF SILVER

In addition to hearing this latest Asimi cable in a reference dCS/Belles/Focal demonstration system at the Northern Ireland hi-fi show, for an hour or two late last year, I've had the privilege of listening extensively in my resident system comprising Mark Levinson amplification/Townshend

speakers throughout the Christmas and New Year break.

As I suggested in my review of Atlas's Asimi interconnect, when audiophiles who own high-end systems gather in hi-fi communion at shows, club meetings, and the like, many often talk of silver wire sounding sweet and delicate but sometimes a little wispish in the treble and too polite. Beware such sweeping generalisations! I found the Asimi interconnect squeaky clean and subjectively wide and open, highly detailed and neither soft nor vague at high frequencies. Likewise this Asimi speaker cable, which delivers a vibrant and powerful musical performance that is both explicit and uncompromising, while also sounding extremely refined.

With audiophile recordings such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Malcolm Arnold Overtures [Reference Recordings RR-48] the holographic sound image is gloriously three-dimensional and lifelike. And when letting one's hair down to the likes of 'Tin Pan Alley' by Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble from 1984's *Couldn't Stand The Weather* [Epic EK 39304] the close-miked drums and sizzling cymbals appear 'fast' and energetic, with sparkling detail and thrilling dynamics. My system rarely ceases to please me. Hooked up with Asimi cables it sounded better than it has ever done... ⤴

HI-FI NEWS VERDICT

If you can justify the cost within the context of your system, Asimi silver cables are among the finest money can buy. This speaker cable sounds highly transparent with powerful, textured bass and brilliant treble with not a hint of grain despite its explicit etching of fine detail. Highly revealing, it will ensure the best possible performance from system components and is fully deserving of reference status.

Sound Quality: 89%

