

# Mighty Atlas

Jon Myles finds the latest power cable from Atlas makes a worthwhile upgrade to any system.

**P**ower cables undoubtedly divide opinion. Some argue that there's no way a short connection between your power outlet and equipment can possibly make a difference to the overall sound of a hi-fi system.

Others say that with the increasing prevalence of RFI and EMI interference due to the growing number of Wi-Fi networks, smart devices and switch-mode power supplies adding grunge to the general environment, they can be a weak link in the hi-fi chain.

Personally, I'm firmly in the latter camp. They are a wire which can pick up extraneous distortion and transmit it into the system – the deleterious effects may be subtle but they can also be crucial to musical enjoyment. And having used a number of specialist power cords in various systems ranging from the thoroughly budget to the seriously high-end I know they can make a significant difference.

Which brings us to the Atlas Eos 4DD – one of a range of power cables produced by the respected Scottish manufacturer.

It's a sturdy cable, but no so stiff that it makes installation awkward. Atlas says it is built to offer low resistance, high current handling and excellent screening from radio frequency interference.

Inside Atlas uses oxygen free copper wiring (OFC) with a Teflon dielectric, aided by a dual drain technology derived from its reference Mavros and Asimi cables as the mechanism of coupling to the primary screening – effectively dumping airborne and electro-magnetic disturbances to earth.

The IEC and mains plugs are Atlas's own design and feature

rhodium-plated pins for better connectivity. They are also nice and chunky and easy to grip, making plugging and unplugging the connections gratifyingly simple.

At £200 for a 1 metre length it's not the cheapest power cable on the market – but nor is it prohibitively expensive.

## SOUND QUALITY

Compared to a number of other power cables – from a standard freebie to after-market models costing up to £300 – the Eos consistently impressed me with the way it opened up the sound and seemed to extend the frequency range.

Although the effect was obvious on both source components and amplifiers, the greatest improvements came with the latter.

Plugged into a McIntosh MC152 power amplifier (see review next issue), Antonio Forcione's delicate guitar work on 'Meet Me In London' had greater definition and presence. The noise floor also seemed to be lower – as though a slight background hash had been removed. It's most noticeable when you remove the Eos and replace it with a different cable and realise there's a slight blurring of the sound.

On Frank Black's 'Hang On To Your Ego' there was more back-to-front depth to the music and timing appreciably improved – the track becoming more propulsive with

added drive to the low-end.

It's this quality that really sets the Atlas cable apart from some of its rivals. Bass and drums gain more definition with the system seeming to dig a little bit deeper, but without losing any rhythmic swing.

Switching to the cheaper Creek Evolution 100A integrated amplifier, again the Eos opened up the sound, managing to bring a little bit more out of what is already an excellent piece of equipment. Some might see spending £200 on a power cable for a £1500 amp is skewing the budget, but I'd argue it actually could be one of the most cost-effective upgrades you could make.

Which is one of the impressive attributes of the new Atlas power cable. It will bring obvious improvements to expensive equipment but also manages to give a boost to mid-price components as well.

Like any of these products, the degree of improvement may vary depending on the quality of your mains and the general RF environment in your listening room. But I'd definitely recommend giving the Atlas Eos at least an audition. The chances are you'll not want to take it out once it's plugged in.



## ATLAS EOS 4DD £200 1 METRE LENGTH



**OUTSTANDING** - amongst the best

## VERDICT

A quality mains cable that will help bring more depth and definition from your system. The results easily justify the price.

## FOR

- extended frequencies
- better definition
- construction

## AGAINST

- nothing

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