

Atlas Hyper

Available as a stereo pair or as a single cable for hooking up subwoofers, Atlas's Hyper is an asymmetrical (unbalanced) design with a 1.03mm diameter central signal core made from 80x0.1mm strands of 5N (99.9997% pure) single crystallised copper. This is formed using the more costly Ohno Continuous Cast (OCC) method. This multi-strand signal conductor is insulated with a foamed polyethylene dielectric. A double-layered outer braid forms the return, which is made from 272 strands of ultra-pure oxygen free copper (UPOFC). The two layers of screen braid form a tightly woven wire mesh which, the company says, will ensure good rejection of RFI.

Looking exceedingly smart, the 8.5mm diameter cable is finished with a gloss black soft PVC sleeve and crimp terminated with Atlas's proprietary RCA plugs made in the Far East to its own design. Made from OFC copper with a high gloss silver finish the plugs are non-compressing with long, narrow barrels to complete a modern look.

HALO EFFECT

The bass intro to Diana Krall's 'My Love Is' leaped from the speakers, the staccato click track sounding particularly fast and clear. While the alto voice was a little less rich than usual it was all the better for it as the halo of reverberation around it was gorgeous and sibilants were well controlled. The resonance of the acoustic

guitar was also a little less plush, enhancing the sense of openness and aiding overall clarity. Coupled with the deep, fast-sounding bass and refined treble it made for intoxicating listening.

As for the 24-bit/96kHz remaster of 'Symphonic Dances' on DVD, this appeared spectacularly holographic, as if a foggy 'bloom' had been removed and one could hear right into the recording venue. Bases and cellos sounded lean and vigorous, though with less subjective opulence in the lower midrange strings and high frequency percussive instruments could sound exposed. The resolution proved fabulous, but clearly it won't flatter systems with any tendency to hardness.



HFN SPECIFICATIONS

Series Inductance	0.58µH
Parallel Capacitance	80pF
Resistance	85mohm
Leakage (DC, 1m)	>100Mohm
Price (1m pair)	£120

Sound Quality: 84%



Atlas Hyper 2.0

Looking ultra-sleek in its gloss black jacket, the Atlas Hyper speaker cable comes in several versions – the '2.0' suffix signifying that its 6N (99.9999% pure) OFC multistrand conductors have a 2mm² cross-sectional area. Hyper also comes in lighter and heavier-gauge '1.5' and '3.0' variants, while Hyper Bi-Wire combines this model's conductors with a separate 1.2mm² solid core OFC strand for the high frequency leg of bi-wireable speakers.

All Hyper speaker cables feature a Teflon dielectric, the conductors twisted and cosseted in a cotton yarn before being surrounded in a paper jacket and a flexible outer sheath of PVC. Overall outer diameter is 7mm.

The proprietary 4mm 'Z plugs' are worth a mention, being composed of 80% copper with a 'beryllium copper' used for the contact pin. Z plugs have hollow pins to reduce mass and also make them suitable for the few amplifiers on the market featuring BFA output connectors (Cyrus amps being one of the last protagonists). The outer sleeve is ABS and when factory-fitted by Atlas the Z plug is cold-welded.

LUCID TUNES

Controlled and well-ordered sounding, the difficult-to-reproduce bass on Joni Mitchell's 'Comes Love' sounded particularly lucid. Vocals were nicely articulated too, with sibilants neither too pronounced nor over-smooth.

In fact everything sounded 'just right' in the test system, with great image projection and an even tonal balance.

The Chicago Pro Musica ensemble was depicted with finesse and tremendous clarity, Reference Recordings' natural-sounding excerpt allowing the instruments real scale to be revealed. Similarly, the cable's balanced and even character brought out the instruments' timbre. Percussion was powerful with a deep, taut bass while the brass had lifelike 'rasp' when the occasion demanded.

Despite the dense production of Fleetwood Mac's 'The Chain', this cable made it easy to hear right into the mix and reveal the individual sounds of guitars and keyboards buried within.



HFN SPECIFICATIONS

Series Inductance (3m loop)	1.58µH
Parallel Capacitance	210pF
Series Resistance	54mohm
Loss (over 3m run into 8ohm)	0.058dB
Price (3m pair/per extra 1m)	£158 / £17.50

Sound Quality: 80%

