

Against the grain

ATLAS MAVROS (interconnect £750/1m, speaker cable £2290/5m terminated sets)

Andy Whittle hears the Mavros cable combo and is converted to the cause

Based in Scotland, the loftily-named Atlas cable company has plenty to crow about. The company is headed-up by John Carrick who introduced the Furukawa cable range to the UK in the early '90s, including one of the first examples using 7N (that's 99.99999%) pure copper conductors.

Over 15 years ago, a 1m length of that potent

an optimum low loss dielectric, essential for high performance audio cables. After all the effort in producing OCC cables please note the copper is quite fragile, so do take care not to unnecessarily bend or stretch the cable. This will work harden the cable, resulting in generation of grain boundaries, thus defeating the whole process!

HOT TO TROT

Deployed throughout my resident system of Voyd Valdi, AudioNote Arm

'Seldom have I heard the bass player take such control and work the song'

interconnect cost about £900, so this latest range of flagship Mavros interconnect and speaker cable from Atlas looks almost reasonable at £750 and £250 per metre in 2008!

PROFESSOR OHNO

Granted, its Mavros interconnect and speaker cables use a mere 6N copper (99.9999% pure) but are manufactured using the OCC (Ohno Continuous Casting) method. This is where the extrusion is reheated to create a single, continuous grain structure. Cables with a high number of grain boundaries and impurities are less desirable for any number of typically highly theoretical reasons.

The new Mavros cables also utilise a new 'Micro Porous PTFE' insulation, achieved by cooling the copper during coating. The PTFE insulation provides

3, IQIII cartridge and M3 preamp, Exposure 2010 CD player, Audio innovations Second Audio power amps and Snell type C speakers, these cables proved a revelation.

After the recommended settling in period of 72 hours using the supplied burn-in CD, I swapped the Atlas speaker cable for my usual brand to assess the performance of the Mavros interconnect alone. Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major [Decca 425 935-2] was the first disc into the drawer and, as Allegro Ma Non Troppo filled the room, the timpani was correctly positioned, enjoying a great sense of depth and detail in the form of ringing and decay. Strings sounded sweet yet crisp and dynamic and at the same time forceful.

A clean, wholesome bass coupled with an expansive soundstage added to the ambience, immersing me in a richly detailed performance. It was time to switch to some rock courtesy of Free's 'Walk in my

hi-fineWS
HIGHLY
COMMENDED



AUDIO FILE

Bi-wire speaker cable and RCA-RCA interconnect

Price: £250/m interconnect
£750/m speaker cable

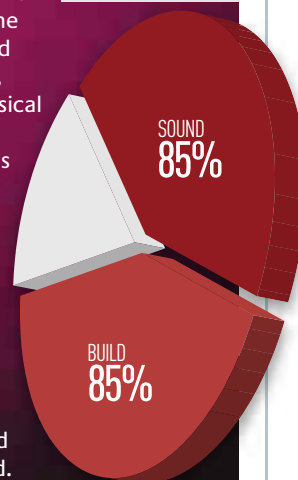
Made and supplied by: Atlas Scotland Ltd

Telephone: 01563 572666

Web: www.hifi.org.uk

Shadow' from *Tons of Sobs* [Island 31458 61492]. The bassline here is clean, deep and played with gusto yet seldom have I heard the bass player take such control and work the song. The ability of the interconnect to combine speed with such composure resulted, time and again, in a stellar musical performance.

Naturally, Atlas recommends the use of its Mavros interconnects with the Mavros speaker cable. With both in place the system took on a whole new dimension, offering greater space, depth, dynamics and fluidity. These new Mavros cables from Atlas have the uncanny ability to sound fast yet relaxed, detailed yet refined, fluid yet composed. If they were a wine they would be a Brunello di Montalcino. Enjoy! ☺



HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Inductance (Interconnect/Speaker)	0.69µH / 0.365µH
Capacitance	95.7pF / 99.9pF
Resistance	38.17mohm / 8.1mohm
Leakage	>20Mohm / >20Mohm
Dissipation factor	0.052 / 0.150