

Magnan Force

MAGNAN SILVER BRONZE INTERCONNECTS (£590/4ft)
MAGNAN SIGNATURE SPEAKER CABLE (£625/8ft sets)

Andy Whittle finds these Californian cables get under his skin when combined together

Dave Magnan of Magnan Audio Cables has been manufacturing high-end audio cables since 1990. Magnan now produces a set of interconnects ranging from the Type VI interconnect at £355, to the balanced Signature interconnect, retailing at an eye-watering £2100!

A range of speaker cables is also on offer, the Signature and Reference retailing at

£625 and £410 respectively. These are superbly constructed and packaged – one is left in no doubt as to the quality of craftsmanship and attention to detail in their manufacture.

'Vaughan's dexterity and playing capabilities were easy to appreciate'

Magnan's design philosophy for its cables focuses on the reduction of skin effects to

minimise any 'time smear' which can affect fine musical detail, blur image positioning and restrict depth. The easiest way to overcome skin effects is to make a cable as thin as possible. For its Signature Interconnect Magnan tackles the physical limitations of super thin cables by using a high resistance non-metallic conductor in the form of a conductive 'paint' on a plastic substrate ribbon. The Signature speaker cables use a copper conductor. However, the physical dimensions are such as to minimise any detrimental 'skin' effects. The cables are effectively a single 5in wide flat copper ribbon, one being used for each speaker polarity. Variable capacitance could be a potential problem – so Magnan recommends the cables be laid side by side wherever possible.

CLEAN AND SWEET

After a one week burn-in period, connected between my Audio Note M3 preamp and Audio Innovations Second Audio monoblocks, Hyperions's CD of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* [CDA66294] was first into the Exposure 2010 player. The opening violin (track 9) sounded sweet and without a hint of grain and was presented in an unhurried, relaxed manner

coupled with a pleasing level of bowing detail. Gillian Fisher's vocals took centre stage, sounding natural and free-flowing and showing very good range.

Stevie Ray Vaughan's 'Tin Pan Ally' from *Couldn't Stand the Weather* [Epic 465571 2] took on a similar laidback presentation; the opening cymbal crash sounded clean and sweet, the intensity with which the drummer hit the wooden block being particularly easy to hear. Vaughan's dexterity and playing capabilities were easy to appreciate, sounding dynamic yet easy on the ear.

Unfortunately, the bass was lacking full weight and took on a slightly 'watered down' quality, sounding neither particularly tight nor extended. Consequently the track lost some drive and energy.

But hooking up the Signature speaker cable between the power amps and my Snell Type Cs thankfully redressed the balance. The bass player now made a rightful contribution to the band.

The combination of Signature speaker cable and Silver Bronze interconnect opened up a wealth of detail, breathing and phrasing on the *Stabat Mater* still presented in a controlled natural way, but now with a greater sense of urgency, power and panache.

Overall, I felt the speaker cable was the better performer of the two, although the limited lengths of eight feet could possibly present a problem. ⏻

AUDIO FILE

Signature speaker cable and Silver Bronze interconnect

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Telephone: 07969 800 079

Web: www.magnan.co.uk

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SOUND
80%

BUILD
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