

On the wiring range

The wrong choice of cable can hobble your system's sound, but get it right and you'll reap the rewards



1 CHORD COMPANY EPIC SUPERTWIN £78/m

★★★★★

You'll need expensive kit, but if you have, you'll love the Chord's detailed, wide-open sound. The stage is huge, the presentation simultaneously rugged and refined. Voices are well isolated, singing with a lyrical, fluent voice. Well worth the high outlay.



2 ECOSSE CS2.2 £3/m

★★★★☆

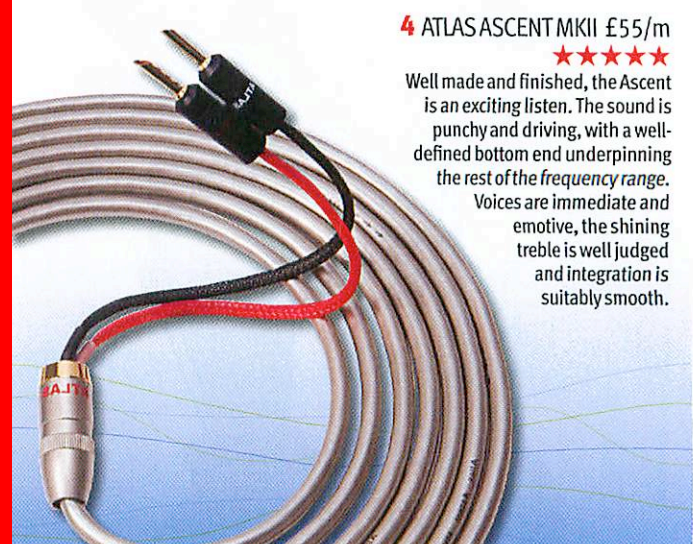
The cheapest cable here is an obvious improvement on 'freebie' stuff that's often given away, but it's not perfect. It's more expensive than bell-wire, but has a tendency to overstate the slightly splashy top end. The low stuff lacks fluidity, too – but if you're on a skin-tight budget, consider it.



3 SUPRA RONDO £5/m

★★★★☆

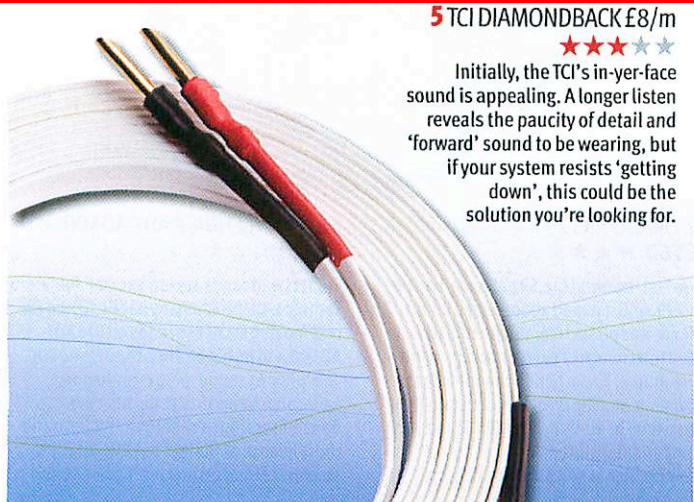
The Rondo delivers sounds as balmy as its baby-blue jacket. Warm and weighty, the Supra majors in midrange and top-end clarity. Bass can be indistinct, and lacks the detail of the rest of the frequency range.



4 ATLAS ASCENT MKII £55/m

★★★★★

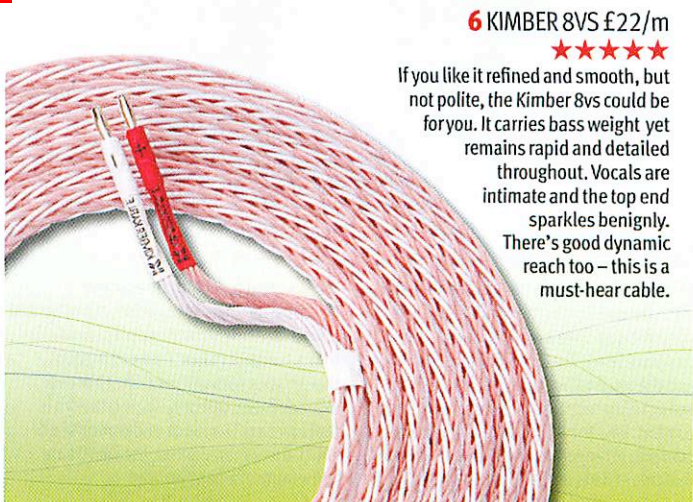
Well made and finished, the Ascent is an exciting listen. The sound is punchy and driving, with a well-defined bottom end underpinning the rest of the frequency range. Voices are immediate and emotive, the shining treble is well judged and integration is suitably smooth.



5 TCI DIAMONDBACK £8/m

★★★★☆

Initially, the TCI's in-ner-face sound is appealing. A longer listen reveals the paucity of detail and 'forward' sound to be wearing, but if your system resists 'getting down', this could be the solution you're looking for.



6 KIMBER 8VS £22/m

★★★★★

If you like it refined and smooth, but not polite, the Kimber 8vs could be for you. It carries bass weight yet remains rapid and detailed throughout. Vocals are intimate and the top end sparkles benignly. There's good dynamic reach too – this is a must-hear cable.