

HiFiCollective Glasshouse Interconnect Kit No. 7

Hot on the heels of the Interconnect Kit Number 6 comes the Glasshouse Interconnect Kit Number 7 from HiFiCollective. It is claimed that with this kit you can construct the ultimate interconnects, using some of the finest cable and phono plugs available.

No. 7 is an all silver kit that contains the top-of-the-range Neotech STDST-24 UP-OCC stranded silver wire in Teflon sleeving and a set of four Audio Note AN-GP-AG heavily silver-plated RCA phono plugs. It also includes Mundorf 3.8 percent silver solder and a suitable quantity of coloured heatshrink sleeving. Construction will take a few hours and is an easy task for anyone used to using a soldering iron. Any length of interconnects can be made by purchasing an appropriate length of the Neotech wire. For this review, a one metre pair was constructed and eight metres of wire was supplied for this purpose.

The Neotech wire consists of seven strands of 0.2mm silver wire, which is more flexible than solid core silver wire. It is manufactured using a patented UP-OCC (Ultra-Pure, Ohno Continuous Casting) process, developed by Professor Ohno of the Chiba Institute of Technology in Japan. The stated benefits of this technology include flexibility, fatigue and corrosion resistance as well as low electrical resistance.

The first task was to plait four equal lengths of the Neotech wire to make a single cable. To do this, the supplied eight metres of wire was cut into two pieces and then each piece was folded in half and both pieces looped over a fixed rod, such as a pencil held in a vice. The four two metre wires were then plaited following a simple technique which is best explained by viewing the very helpful YouTube video that HiFiCollective has uploaded (www.youtube.com/watch?v=isKP_P7FOUk&feature=BFa&list=ULisKP_P7FOUk) entitled *Four Wire Weave* (or search for *Four Wire Weave* by HiFiCollective).

The plaiting process took me just under half an hour (it is quite straightforward once you get into the swing of it). The end result was an extremely neat cable and the plait was very even throughout the whole length by virtue of the slippery nature of the Teflon sleeving which helped to even out the twists. Once complete, the cable is cut in half and all four ends are secured with some adhesive tape to prevent them undoing until the connections are soldered. Note that the resultant cables were actually 0.95m long after plaiting, so you lose about five percent of the length as a result of the plaiting process.

To finish off, simply slip on the coloured heatshrink sleeving, solder the Audio Note RCA phono plugs, shrink the sleeving with heat from the soldering iron, assemble the plugs and you're ready to go.

Sound quality

In my experience, interconnects, especially silver ones, require burning in and these cables were no exception. Don't be worried if they sound a little edgy and thin initially – run them for at least ten hours before assessing their performance. After a suitable run-in period, I slipped a copy of Vivaldi *Op. 7* by I Musici on my turntable because it has a

good range of solo instruments, as well as a full orchestra. The sound was really superb and I was struck by the open, delicate and effortless strings which never interfered with the lower registers from the double basses. Particularly good was the fullness of the sound across the whole audio spectrum. If I was to sum it up in one word, I would call the sound 'refined'.

In comparison with a very good (and expensive) set of solid silver interconnects that I had at my disposal, the No.7 yielded a more balanced sound over the entire frequency range and you felt more engaged with the orchestra. When playing some dance/trance music, both cables exhibited a very well-controlled bass but the bass notes were much clearer with the No.7s.

The end result is a very professional-looking set of interconnects that can out-perform ready-made cables costing many times as much – and there is the additional benefit of the pleasure you derive from having made them yourself! What's not to like? **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE: £282 (1M)

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OUR VERDICT

