

Ausgabe 34 März 2017 – Mai 2017

hifi-stars.de

Technik

Musik

Lebensart

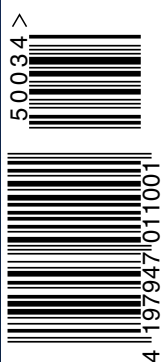
ISSN 1867-5166

Ausgabe 34
März 2017 -
Mai 2017

HIFI-STARS

Technik – Musik – Lebensart

Deutschland € 11 | Österreich € 12,30 | Luxemburg € 13,00 | Schweiz sfr 15,50



HIFI-STARS

EC-Living | Richard Barbieri | Edradour

in-akustik Speaker cable Reference LS 2404 Air-Helix

Mercilessly



The writer's suffering when creating a report is always the headline. My first thought when listening to this loudspeaker cable went to „Thors Hammer“, but the Schwarzwald (the cable comes here) at least as far away from the Scandinavian hero saga as the Oberpfälzer Wald (the author's area) from the Sahara, where „It runs hot“, although the latter term would also be a suitable synonym for the loudspeaker cable Reference 2404 Air-Helix by in-akustik. So, right now I said almost as well as everything and the reader could immediately swivel to the conclusion – how do I keep the tension in the report? Quite simply – I recommend reading the following sentences, in the quiet hope, to imitate my initial enthusiasm and finally, from the point of view of tension, it is from a purely physical point of view ...

Just for fun ...

„The best cable is not the one that gets the most from a system, but the one that loses the least of it. Without adequate connections, the potential of the best electronics is not fully exploited. Cables and connections are susceptible to faults which can only be coped with selected materials and elaborate cable assemblies „- I had to take over this introductory sentence of the manufacturer simply one by one, because he says all about what

the topic“ HiFi- Cable „basically goes. Here, the technical approach is in line with the statement, since the quality (s) of the equipment is determined only by the coordination of the equipment. Anyone expecting that cables could save their (possibly existing) „device of equipment“ – is wrong, because each cable in its performance class merely supplements the existing equipment quality. Only if this is really good, the qualities of the cable also come to light!

Physics explains itself ...

„Not only in the field of high-end applications is air the best insulator for cables. It allows low capacities and low losses, crucial factors for a genuine transfer „. On the basis of this physical knowledge, this becomes apparent in the construction of the air helix cable series of in-akustik acoustically clear as visible. Through the thin black PE shield the composition of the cable is recognizable. Eight cables of 24 high-purity copper wires are braided by a PE core each and are painted before. The latter is intended to prevent eddy currents within the cable construction which inevitably arise when current flows. In fact, the largest currents are flowing through the loudspeaker line of a stereo system, and the lacquer layer insulates the individual strands from each other.

Everything is clearly twisted against each other (which explains the term helix which comes from the Greek and stands for: spiral, winding or screw) in a specially made plastic clip and thus remain at the previously calculated distance from each other. Like the beads on a string, the entire construct works. The clips are held by two bars each – so it is possible to make any length. Charged current lines have naturally a magnetic field, which continues with the so-called Lorentz force, and here we know from physics following rule: “The magnetic component of the force is then greatest when the direction of motion of the charge is perpendicular to the magnetic field lines – and equal to zero, when the charge moves along a field line“. Now, especially in the case of the HiFi cable, it must be aimed towards zero. The approaches vary from manufacturer to manufacturer. While some see their approach on the way of shielding, one goes in-akustik the way described here. Physically speaking, an electrically charged particle (which moves in a magnetic field) always performs a helical trajectory (helix).

However, the prerequisite is that the particle does not move parallel, antiparallel or transversely to the north-south orientation of the magnetic field. Ergo: Physics is applicable – it can be explained. For the sake of com-

pleteness it should be noted that the very light (because airy) air-helix cable construction described here is not really resistant to impact – such stress tests should therefore be avoided.

The low-inductance principle (not only) in the LS 2404 air helix is achieved by the special arrangement of the „double-layer multiplier“ conductor material, which results in a particularly low inductance. The principle is also applied to the NF sections of this cable type by the manufacturer. That would be basically everything – no stop, do not forget the perfectly made plug connections. Rhodium-coated cable lugs, BFA bananas (our test version) and BFA bananas in 45°, as well as various screw types and an easy-plug contact is available. My claim is simple, I am satisfied with the BFA-Bananas, which I had, after I had removed their screwed transparent plastic caps, in the connections on the loudspeakers and amplifiers stuck – the tight contact on both sides I liked immediately. Everything is convincingly high-quality and is expertly designed by the chief developer Holger Wachsmann in the cable manufacturer of in-akustik in Ballrechten-Dottingen in the Hochschwarzwald (in the south-west of Baden-Württemberg) and is assembled by specially trained personnel in pure manual work.



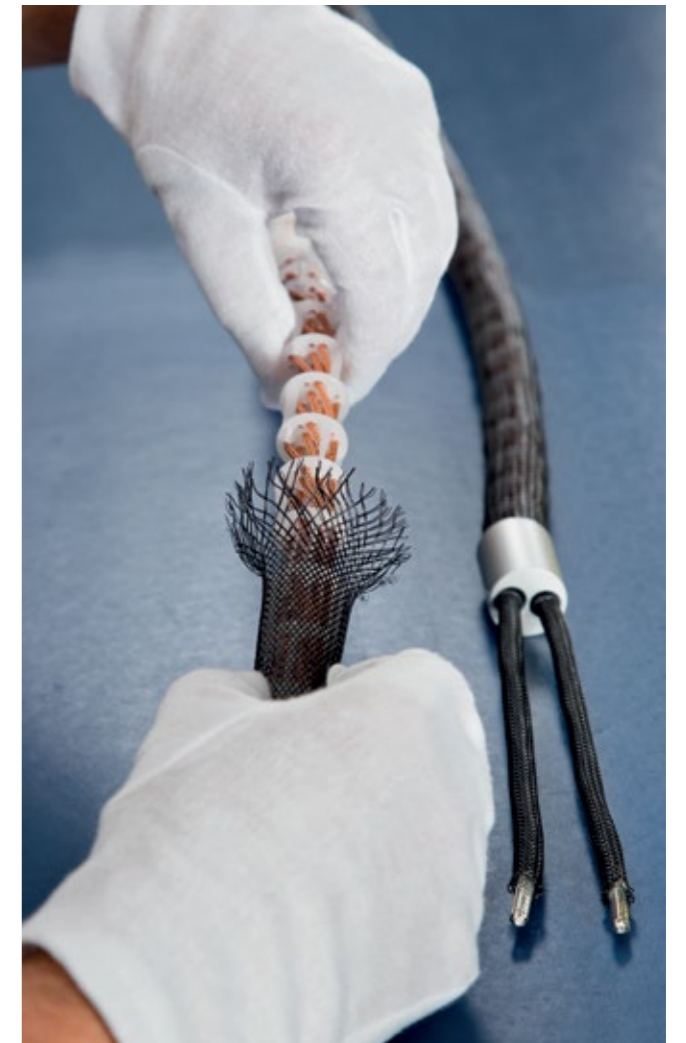
Sound Experience ...

The first tones with the crack-free loudspeaker cable were still somewhat strict, at the same time was immediately an enormous airiness in the sound picture. The CD player to be processed receives the repeat command and I leave the room. A few hours later, it irritates me to learn what has happened in the meantime sound. Some of it! To put it figuratively, I missed a sonorous sunrise and now stand in the blazing sunlight. The predefined frequency processing has now been added to the basic characteristic (the strikingly good airiness), and somehow the loudspeaker cable appears to me louder than anything I had heard of such types. This „louder“ may be explained by the high permeability of the cable construction. I find myself more and more often in this test, that I reach into the poison kitchen of my phonograms. These include, among others, the one or the other recording of Stockfish Records and especially the track „Beat Hotel“ from the Allan-Taylor-CD „Hotels & Dreamers“. A long bass tone at the beginning – he rolls around

the room with a dull glare and swings his way – untypical for my acoustically best-edited room. I am immediately clear – I have a problem in the wiring of my system, because the currently used NF cables do not come with the speed of the loudspeaker cable and swing themselves acoustically clearly comprehensible. A call to in-akustik, with the request to send two corresponding XLR lines of the reference NF 2404 Air Helix were my answer to this problem. No sooner was the first between the two power amp Restek Extract and the pre-amplifier (the same piece again) – let's go – the air left me! Which incredible sound potential can be hidden within my stereo system, I have already experienced in the complete wiring for a six-digit amount – this is (unfortunately) no way for me. However, this experience spurred me to try out the most varied high-quality cable constructions. Can the sound just heard be raised again? Already almost provocatively asked – but here the experimental in me strikes consistently and so also the CD player still missed the corresponding NF-stretch XLR-2402 air helix. A few serious arguments (which

speaks for it) underline this action alone from a sound point of view. In „Fink Meets The Royal Concertbeow Orchestra“ with track 6 „This is The Thing“, the space suddenly comes up again – this time infinitely far and deep. I am reproduced with such an open and drawn sound image on my auditorium that I am supporting. How many times had I already played this piece and am addicted to the details of this recording...? For example, I call the corpus of the acoustic guitar, which, in addition to the memorable song of the artist with the wooden body, is authentically reproduced by his singing, quasi three-dimensionally dissected, but always playing in his own play – keyword: upcoming drumming – almost holographic sound the individual Sounds in their representation – snare, bass drum, cymbals... louder? Absolutely, I catch myself looking at the regular of volume of my tube preamplifier HP 300 SE from Octave – „... about nine o'clock, and so loud?“, I ask myself. This almost unbelievable transmittance of the In-akustik Reference 2404-AIR-helix-harness is no longer out of my head. For me, this reference LS 2404 AIR helix plays loose and casual with the best speaker cables in the market. It is „fast,“ incredibly open upwards, forgetting not to go into the depths of the lowest frequencies – of course at the same speed as in other frequencies. Next, M. Müller-Westernhagen lands with his MTV unplugged recording in the CD player. On two evenings recorded at the Berlin Waldbühne in July 2016 – why did it take so long for the guy to play Unplugged? This double CD is absolutely relentless. So just the right food for the two Air Helix cable types from the Schwarzwald. They pass the signals just as quickly as they receive them and display them mercilessly in their quality. And at the latest with the old „Gassenhauern“ like „Sexy“ or „will less“ it is really hard for me to sit quietly. The music of Michel Godard and „Monteverdi – a trace of grace“ will be calmer. Baroque music at its finest, recorded in a large church. The Frenchman Michel Godard is among others. (A snake-shaped horn), a bass instrument that was able (and is) to fill large spaces tonally (it is considered the legitimate predecessor of today's Tuba). The artist plays this old horn in such a compassionate way that the sound of a goose-skinned experience is guaranteed. The horn is glued together from two curved wooden tines and then covered with leather. The CD is tonally really highly interesting and therefore receives an unconditional recommendation to expand the collection, although occasionally an unclean blowing of the old instrument is audible. At the latest, by the vocals of women and males you will remember my words, but regardless this the Italian label CAM Jazz will be extremely well-received and mixes just as high-quality – every mistake will be

mercilessly presented. The large church space is heard by the listener through the wiring of the LS 2404 Air Helix and the increase is immediately experienced with the expansion in the amplifier cabling (alternatively source full amplifiers) – I repeat here intentionally because there is so much air in the music reproduction of my stereo system I really rarely experienced it. I admit openly that the enthusiasm for these extraordinary cables is growing from record to record, because for their price class, both are simply the hammer (so – see above). Marcus Miller with „Tutu – revisited“ is such a sound example. From this double CD I listen on the first track five: „Jean Pierre“. A brutally plucked Fender jazz bass in a duet – no, I must rightly say – in the duel with a tenor saxophone. As cross as two sticks frequencies, whose playback at too loud a volume for violently vibrating loudspeaker chassis ensure. The desire for „loud“ is only diminished by the high sound distortion in the room and I drive it – frankly – just really too colorful.



Since the quiet mood of a jazz trio fits perfectly for the personal calm down. The Giovanni Guido trio with the CD title „This Is The Day“ ensures the correct level with a little above the room volume – this is exceptionally good with this complete cabling. Still caught in the sound world of these Jazz trios, I switch to analogue playback. On the plate is Miles Davis with his 1972 studio album „On The Corner“ in the MFSL version. Originally a jazz critter from all over the world, this album is today regarded as a „visionary masterpiece“ (Quote: the time

magazine). On the basis of simple, endlessly repeated (for this time typical) Funk muster the percussion drumming supports the splendid grooving bass of this Studio session. You can see this album’s energy with which it was recorded at the time. It may not be revealed to you at first hearing. However, one finds oneself increasingly in this sound formation of a time, which was marked by social upheavals around the world, and a sound milestone – which is important for the in-akustik reference 2404 Air Helix – is precisely in my listening room ...

To the point

In the encyclopedia called “Duden”, „merciless“ is a synonym for: without forbearance, without compassion or mercy. And equally, all this applies to the in-akustik reference LS-2404 Air Helix. It unmasks even the slightest weakness within a facility and plays for me unquestionably in the top league of the high-end cables with. In a nutshell, it is sensationally good in terms of performance and performance. And in order to do the thing really round, a supplement with the NF version of the reference 2404 Air Helix is not impossible – rather even duty in the combination, because at the latest it is really tight for some high-price competitors. As shown in Fig.

Information

Speaker cable Reference LS-2404 Air helix

Price: 2 x 3 m with BFA 3.300 Euro

Manufacturer:

in-akustik GmbH & Co.KG

Undermats 12-14

79282 Ballrechten-Dottingen

Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 76 34/56 10-0

Fax: +49 (0) 76 34/56 10-80

info@in-akustik.de

www.in-akustik.de

Alexander Aschenbrunner

