

DNM Design

Stereo Solid Core Resolution speaker cable

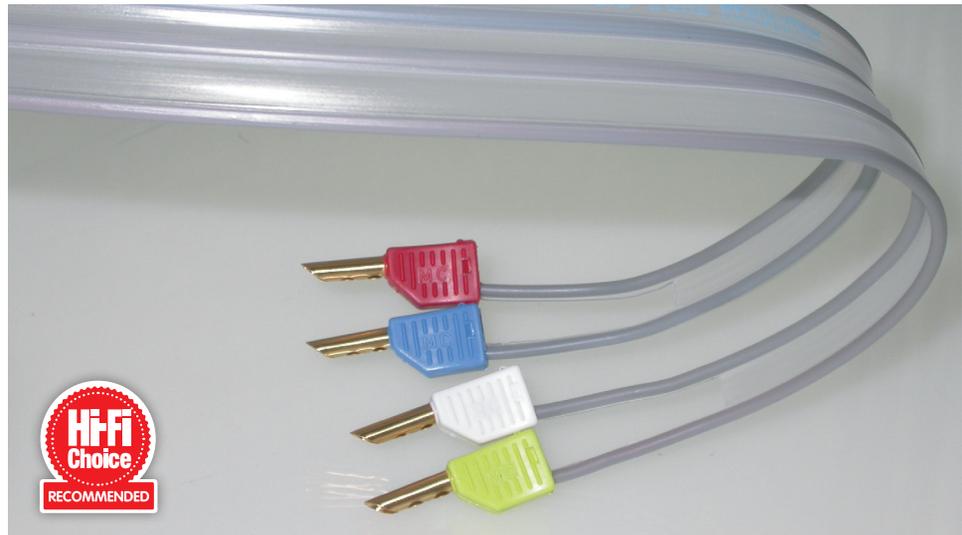
DENIS N MORECROFT has come up with a new speaker cable, the first in quite a while. Denis was the guy who put solid core cables on the map back in the eighties and for a long time his skinny speaker cables were the choice for those looking for great sound at a sensible price. The original DNM cable was replaced by the slightly thicker, lower resistance Precision 2, but recognising that this was still not suited to low sensitivity speakers and long cable runs DNM has come up with a beefier alternative dubbed Resolution.

This is still in the classic spaced pair arrangement that DNM pioneered, but has 1.3mm conductors instead of 0.82mm, making it better suited to the higher currents required by sub 89dB/W sensitivity loudspeakers. It is sold by the stereo metre rather than the mono metre found with most other brands. The reason for this is the DNM cables are sold as a four-core ribbon, which is simply peeled apart for use in a single-wired system or left whole for biwiring. DNM doesn't recommend completely separating them, but peeling enough off for each channel with any remaining length left in one piece and connected to the amp.

Here's the science bit...

The theory behind widely spaced, small cross section solid conductors is that they optimise the amplifier to cable interface and ensure stability, they have high resistance as a result, but Morecroft feels that this is not an issue for domestic situations and that the transient errors caused by heavier gauge cables make them untenable. This theory is almost diametrically opposite that behind the cables I generally use and yet I have consistently found DNM to be the best sounding 'affordable' speaker cable on the market, so it's doing something right.

DNM Resolution is not a very exciting looking cable, but its thin profile makes it easy to hide under a carpet. If you purchase a terminated set of these cables they come with small, colourful plugs that DNM



refers to as leaf plugs. They follow the company maxim of minimising extraneous materials and can be stacked for biwiring.

In the system, Resolution sounds much like DNM Precision and this is a good thing because few cables have the timing skills of this one. Resolution does add a little more weight to the bass, however, and this gives the music a little bit more power, which is always nice. Its talent lies in the definition of leading edges, this is what makes it so precise and musical, giving excellent pace where it's called for and letting bands like Ahmad Jamal's trio on *The Awakening* produce a sound that inspires all sorts of apostrophe-laden descriptions; cookin', swingin' and just plain hip all seem apt. Tonally it's even-handed and clean, there's no edginess to the mid or treble and sufficient muscle in the bass. There are more substantial sounding cables around and some that produce greater solidity of stereo image, but they rarely compete with the DNM for musical integrity.

It delivers excellent width of image and plenty of space, there is also a strong sense of presence with all manner of music. Hi-res material could sound a little more plush perhaps and one cable I contrast it with does supply this, Tellurium Q Black has a richer tonal balance, which ushers in some more of the

polish you get with a great recording like Herbie Hancock's *River*. Yet going back to the DNM makes the music much more interesting and engaging, there is a coherence to it that the TQ can't match. It's easier to follow individual instruments or voices in a large ensemble, the funky guitar line on *Edith and the Kingpin* being a good example.

Naim that tune

Another interesting contrast is with Naim NACA5 connected to a Naim UnitiLite, this cable has similarly spaced conductors, but they are stranded and much thicker. Put the DNM on after the Naim cable and there is a distinct cleaning up of the treble alongside better timing and no apparent shortfall in authority. The spirit of the music is remarkably well presented thanks to excellent transient definition and the ability to reveal dynamics and bandwidth. I would go so far as to recommend DNM Resolution to Naim users, it does what NACA5 does, but better and maintains the sort of resistive load Naim amps need.

Anyone looking to get maximum musical satisfaction from a decent system should investigate DNM Solid Core cables and those with power-hungry speakers are best advised to try Resolution. A better cable will cost you a lot more. **JK**

DETAILS

PRICE
£33/stereo metre
WEBSITE
dnm.co.uk

OUR VERDICT

