



Dream a little - Crystal Cable Dreamline Speaker Cables & Interconnects

Crystal Cable Delivers Clarity and Performance with their Dreamline Speaker Cables and Interconnects

In The Inner Ear's last print issue (Vol 17 No. 4/2007), I had the opportunity to review Crystal Cables' earlier high-end speaker cable — the Ultra. I remember it well, because its performance was extraordinary. The Ultras' performance highlights included speed, transparency, resolution and a high degree of sonic neutrality. And just when I thought that these cables couldn't be improved, Gaby van der Kley, Crystal's president and founder, shocked the electronics industry (and me) with a new no-holds-barred design for the discriminating listener. Benjamin Scarcelli, Canadian distributor for Crystal products, provided a two-meter pair of the new Dreamline speaker cable and the matching interconnects and I began to evaluate their performance in a variety of amp/speaker systems, I had in-house at the time. Before I get to the nitty gritty, however, I'd like comment on the Dreamline's presentation — the containers for both cables. No doubt, packaging Crystal Cable's top of the line product is a display of the cable's rank and its lineage. Packed in a handbag-like black suede case, it would not surprise me to see it worn on the street. The material is pleasant to the touch as it elicits an almost sinful, perverse response. Both, the interconnects and the speaker cables are packed in these "handbags" which remind of designs from Gucci, Fendi etc.



Although simple in configuration these speaker cables offer maximum signal transmission.

The Speaker Cables

Well! I heard great things right out of the box, even before the cables were burnt in. A week later, the Dream definitive sonic disposition unfolded and I started my auditioning sessions. The systems used were Art Audio's single-ended amp, Wyetech Labs Opal preamp, a pair of WLM Diva monitors and an Audio Aero Capitol SE CD source component. For another system, I used the Simaudio Moon components — W-8 amp, P-8 preamp, and CD player with the same speakers. These two systems are state of the art in their price categories and both allowed a clear perspective into the Dreamline cables' sonic make up. Here is what you can expect with a good combination: Count on one of the most spatial sound stages you have ever heard: anticipate and enjoy the sound frequencies from your loudspeakers. Violins, horns and woodwinds, cymbals and other instruments performing frequency domain will sound very organic and give you the feeling of a being there at alive performance. How smoothness does not overwhelm the cables' ability to properly deal with resolution in the high, mid and low frequency ranges. That, dear reader, is not easily achieved as most musical information takes place in high and mid frequencies too much smoothness often obscures the finishing resolution. I found that the cable's ability to handle music's tones is one of its exceptional accomplishments, but in addition, pitch, harmony, volume, rhythm and timbre simultaneously. This is rarely talked about, but in a well-assembled sound system all aforementioned elements present if we want to hear the complete and extremely complex harmonious possibilities of reproduced music.



Interconnects sporting NextGen RCA's made by WBT.

The Dreamline — both speaker cables and interconnects — sound straight out of the box, but when properly burned in, I thought that conspicuous element is the cable's ability to recreate an unobstructed multi-dimensional sound stage. That is to say that front-to-back, horizontal dimensions are appropriately presented, but in addition to those important elements, the often-ignored dimension of space/time further the sensation of listening to an integral musical landscape.

The Interconnects

I tested the interconnects with my source components — a Magnum tuner and the CD players mentioned above, and quickly established didn't imprint its personality, thereby allowing a clear perspective of components. This brings me to the cables' voice or personality; and difficult to explain. In the world of reviewers, we can only guess at that neutrality, actually an oxymoron, since neutral can be defined as color impartial, even boring. But in the cable industry, neutrality is a good because it allows the end-user to choose what they like in amps, pre source components. A lot of high-end cables offer a high degree of impartiality, although this cannot be scientifically confirmed and read to take a reviewer's word for it. Be this as it may, I hold that all cables have personality, but even if they were entirely impartial, they are going to interact with components. If, as I believe, the Dreamline is a very neutral conductor like a large spout would in an aquatic environment. Nothing else seems out of whack; and that, folks, spells high performance for those of us who are spoiled.

Synopsis & Commentary

In the world of high-end audio, cables should be considered another component, but they should disappear — speaking — just like you'd expect from a superb pair of loudspeakers. I see these cables (speaker and interconnect) as the tools that intensify the listening experience and magnify the musical performance — that's as good as points at a cable that has it all: technology applied where it makes a difference, a high degree of musicality at a price/performance ratio, I believe is appropriate. These are wonderful cables — congrats Gaby.

MODELS

Dreamline Speaker Cables and Interconnects

RATING

Speaker Cables



Interconnects



PRICE

Cdn. \$15,500 (2 meter / pair speaker cables)

Cdn. \$7,300 (1 meter / pair RCA interconnects)

MANUFACTURER

Crystal Cable

CONTACT

Audio Basics, Inc.

877.92AUDIO

905.303.9232

CrystalCable.com

+31 26 353 9045