

SUPRA SWORD INTERCONNECT £349/0.8M

Supra is one of the only European cable brands that actually manufactures its own cables, to its own specifications, in its own factory (in Sweden). For a long time now, it has been producing very worthy, fine sounding interconnects and speaker cables, in any colour you like as long as it's pale blue. Successful as this has been, most buyers apparently still want luminous hues of purple or yellow for their aftermarket audio interconnects. So the new Sword is – shock, horror – semi-translucent, ermm, pale blue. Those crazy Swedes!

The cable itself is altogether more impressive – it boasts a number of Supra patents, the key one being the bifilar wound Litz conductors, each comprising 24 individually insulated wires. This bifilar winding is built with twelve of these wires helically wound in one direction and twelve in the opposite direction. This divides the magnetic field into opposing directions resulting in self-cancellation, says Supra. Because Sword's conductors comprise a number of insulated wires, dynamic

skin effect is cancelled, so therefore Sword behaves as a non-inductive and phase-stable cable, the theory goes.

In a high end cable market dominated by the likes of Chord Company, Black Rhodium and Nordost, it's a difficult call for a less well known name such as Supra, but the Sword is good enough to take on anything. Of course, each different variety of cable has its own character, but the Supra's will win many friends. It is exceptionally neutral, with just a touch of dryness noticeable against the likes of the (much more expensive) Chord Indigo. Bass is seriously strong and clean, but there's no artificial bloom. Midband is translucent, with a light, airy, spacious, widescreen presentation, and treble gloriously crisp and delicate. Rhythmically, the Sword lacks the exuberance of Black Rhodium rivals, but instead chooses to remain very controlled and detailed, even in exceptionally complex musical

passages.

Dynamically it's also bold and powerful, whilst never losing it – if ever there was a cable that suited the phrase 'grace under pressure', this is it. An essential audition at the price then, an ideal for taming a splashy, loose or wayward high end system. For more information, click on www.supracables.co.uk or call +44(0)1223 441 299.

