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I follow the products of the American company Audience for many years, despite never having possessed one of their own. Winners of prizes to the best sound and present for many years in the list of components recommended by Stereophile magazine, I have always thought that they could be the dream that all fans of high fidelity look for. I am referring to those components that we think can look from one to the other to the absolute references of their sector, but for a fraction of the price of these. A bargain, or buy a teacher, or whatever you want to call them, you understand me ... The fact that many international writers in the sector have them in their sound systems, has always helped me to reaffirm my assumptions.

The previous flagship series of the firm, the Audience SX, I heard in the room of the former distributor of the firm in our country with very favorable impressions. This coupled with a few months ago Audience has launched a new top-of-the-range series, and that according to contrasted references exceeds its long predecessor, I have "forced" to ask their current distributor in our country, Ultimate Audio, a set of said model to be able to test them thoroughly. Due to its absolute novelty, and the demands that the distributor has to support now in this product, I received a set consisting of speaker cable and an RCA interconnection pair, with which I can make a well-founded idea of its benefits, although I cannot completely connect my system with them.



Received in a beautiful semi-rigid case with the Audience logo in the center, they stand out for following a design very different from the usual high-end cables. They are very thin, light and not rigid. A few years ago, I remember conversations with audio distributors in which they commented that a cable must necessarily have a considerable section. It seems that this way of thinking is overcome today with comfortable, practical and solvent realizations in the same way. It is clear that an extremely high wire section is not necessary to transmit all the musical content of a recording, and only an arduous work of damping and screening can justify a large cable diameter. In this case with a frankly moderate section.

To perform the test I installed the speaker cables at the same time as the interconnection pair, which I decided to use to connect the DAC with the line preamplifier, because I think that at that point its influence and sound personality is more evident and palpable.

First of all, the sound offered by the Audience frontRow cables is elegant. It shows a control over the whole spectrum of frequencies - and especially in the most severe - exemplary. I have had the opportunity to listen to them both with boxes of important size and weight as the Kroma Audio Norma, as with the smaller monitors of the Mimi model brand. In both cases keeps the boxes at bay, always leaving in my mind the impression that in boxes of great power and benefits are more favored by that domain of the situation they show. I cannot recommend only this model for large boxes, because with the small "in size" Mimi sounded fabulous, but its control and precision in the way of showing the serious makes them ideal for large realizations of acoustic boxes.



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The level of detail of the frontRow is frankly high, and that was something special in the previous model. I recently listened to the Au24SX in a demo with the YG Acoustics Sonja 2.2 boxes, where this aspect seemed impossible to overcome, but this new series represents a further step in resolution, even matching the most important brands in the wiring world, no matter the price level. A level of detail of such caliber almost always alerts certain fans who relate-erroneously-detail with harshness or even coldness. In this case, this is not the case at all. I have already referred to my first impression of elegant sound - impossible to perceive harshly - and of control, but to this I have to add the one of extremely faithful in the timbral reality of each instrument or voice that we listen to. If a timbre is the correct one is not possible that we find hardness in it, only a deformation of the reality or emphasis in certain aspects that break their balance can show us that defect. It is not the case...

Elegance, control, fidelity to the original are aspects that define a great achievement. But are these the cables that I can openly recommend for any sound system? To affirm that a product fits 100% in any audio equipment, is not only risky, it is a lie, without more. Everyone must take into account personal tastes and synergies before deciding, and these Audience frontRow are very high-end cables in performance for systems of a level according to their performance. We do not seek to equalize our system with them, they will not give us a sound with more filling or density in medium-serious or hotter in general, it is neutral and will give us the best of what we have in our room. If it is a sound of quality and balance, it will raise the level,



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At the end of the day, is not that characteristic that every good amateur should try to reach in his cables? We had not been in which the cable that better sounded was the one that did not add anything to the sound? Well here we have it, reproducing the music that our beloved components give, but with control, without interferences or resonances, without any detail being lost along the way and with elegance and class. We can only influence the vital aspect of the dynamics. No limitation will be perceived in this aspect -both in the micro and in the macro-, being fully satisfactory and enjoying the complete dynamics of any good recording. What happens is that sometimes we can confuse cables with a good dynamic with others that directly throw the music to your face with quite coarseness. The frontRow always keep the music tidy and when the pounding of a "crescendo" comes as God intended, go if you feel it. Only a real dynamic can be perceived by keeping the noise level as low as possible, and from that silent background we will have the greatest possible dynamic range to our service: just what these frontRow do.

Conclusions

Years ago, having dinner with an Italian manufacturer of products destined to the current of our systems, he told me that he divided the brands of cables into two groups: those that contributed something to the sound to make it hotter, or "analogical" we can say, and those that simply open the sound and with slight nuances let it flow freely. Without a doubt the Audience frontRow belong to the second group, letting our system breathe freely, with a great level of silence, fabulous detail and always with naturalness, control and elegance in its sound.

Maybe we can find better cables - not many - in the market, but ... at what price? That is perhaps the most interesting virtue of the Audience brand and of this particular model as its flagship, establishing itself again and again, whatever the model they present, as a reference to beat in relation quality / price. They offer a

quality of sound so high that it allows them to be chosen to connect systems of absolute reference, and always leave their owner with the satisfaction and security that has made the purchase as smart as possible. My highest recommendation

Distribute Ultimate Audio

Audience frontRow speaker 2 meters - € 5220

Audience frontRow RCA interconnection 1 meter - € 3400

EQUIPMENT USED IN THE TRIAL

Sound boxes

- Kroma Audio Norma and Mimi

Amplification

- Preamplifier Ypsilon PST-100 MKII
- Stages monophonic Ypsilon Aelius

Source

- Transportation MBL 1621A
- DAC Nagra HD

Cables

- Stealth Audio Sakra Interconnection and Tara Labs Zero Evolution
- Digital S / PDIF Tara Labs Omega Zero
- Kroma Audio Speaker
- Kroma Audio Current

accessories

- Acoustic Revive RR-77