

Audience OHNO III Speaker Cables

PAUL MESSENGER TRIES AN AFFORDABLE US-SOURCED SPEAKER CABLE



HIFICRITIC
BEST BUY

Audience cables come from the USA and are distributed in Britain by David Jackson's High End Cable operation. I reviewed the partnering interconnect nine months ago (*HIFICRITIC Vol19 No4*), and now get to try the matching speaker cable. Audience OHNO actually comes in two forms, using either one or the three conductors of our samples. A 2m pair costs £295, while our 5m examples costs just £365, so quite a hefty chunk of the price is down to the z-plug banana plug terminations. That's not too different from the pricetag of the Naim NACA5 that I normally use

OHNO is actually the surname of an academic Japanese doctor who invented the process of manufacturing mono-crystal copper wire, avoiding the crystal boundaries found in cheaper copper cables.

The cable itself is quite compact but has a near round section with an approximate diameter of 7mm, so it can't be run under carpeting. The appearance is reasonably discreet and neutral brown, albeit with some shiny elements.

The sound quality is clean, verging on the romantic. It doesn't generate quite the speed or tension of NACA5m but it does sound rather sweeter. Imaging is high class, both in placement and focus, while perspectives are properly laid out with decent depth when appropriate. The only real criticism is that the extreme treble sounds a trifle rolled off, so the sound loses a little incisiveness.

While the *OHNO* might not have quite the grip and tension of NACA5, its sweetness provides fair compensation, so it therefore deserves a Best Buy rating.