

Cross my palm with silver

NVA is known for its electronics but it makes interconnects too. Chris Frankland tries out its top-of-the-range loudspeaker cable, the LS7 (TSCS).

NVA is primarily a manufacturer of electronics, but it also offers a range of cables. And while billed as suitable for use with any amplifier, owners of NVA's own amps will know that using any other cables will invalidate their warranty.

Fighting talk, but apparently

because NVA purposely avoids any output protection, filters or fuses in the quest for the best sound, they say that the use of other high-capacitance cables can send the amps into oscillation.

NVA makes a range of five low-capacitance cables. The LSI sells for £90 per 2m stereo set and uses seven individually insulated,

high-purity copper cores. The LS3 at £150/2m stereo set is a 14-core version of the LSI. The LS5 at £240 has 28 cores, while the LS6 at £460 ups that to 48. Twenty of those are the same as in the LS1, 3 and 5 but the LS6 adds 28 cores of thinner, high-quality silver alloy.

But it is the LS7 (TSCS) that I'm reviewing here at £900 per 2m



stereo set. This uses 100 separately insulated silver alloy cores covered in Teflon, plus 10 pure copper cores covered in PVC. All 110 cores are sheathed in PVC. A tin-plated copper mesh is then placed around the cable, which NVA says acts as a Faraday cage as it is not connected to ground. This is then all housed in a black PVC outer sheath for protection. The positive and neutral runs are separately sheathed, NVA says, to keep capacitance low.

"detailed, dynamic, musical and without serious flaws"

The cables are terminated with gold-plated, low-mass Z-plugs, the construction of which, NVA says, makes them act like a spring to give the tightest fit and greatest area of contact. And I must say that they did indeed provide a very tight fit both into the amplifier and speaker terminals in the system used.

SOUND QUALITY

To test the cables, I used them with

a Rega Aethos amplifier and a pair of NEAT Xplorer 'speakers. Sources included an Audio Note CD4.1x CD player, Audio Note TT3/Arm2/lo/S9 transformer through Puresound P10 phono stage, as well as the excellent Pro-Ject Stream Box Ultra S2 with its PreBox Digital S2 DAC.

First track up on the Stream Box was March Winds in February from Van Morrison's Three Chords & The Truth album. Here, the LS7

cable sounded well balanced, with good definition on drums and percussion, great intelligibility and humanity on vocals – and a tuneful, weighty bass line. The sound was blissfully free of harshness and glare.

That great old classic Groovin' is covered brilliantly by guitarist Peter White on his album of the same name and that was up next on the Stream Box. White's guitar was conveyed incisively and

precisely with great note shape and body. Percussion was detailed and dynamic and the complex musical layers of this superb track were well sorted and that weighty, melodic bass line moved well.

Bringing Ben Sidran in to help me make up my mind with Easy Street from his Old Songs for the New Depression CD, there was no doubt that the LS7 put in a fine performance. His vocals were open, articulate and characterful while his piano was sparkingly conveyed. The track had good pace and that deep, powerful bass line jogged along with purpose and control. The tenor sax solo was nicely pitched and presented with no nasty colourations or harshness.

CONCLUSION

On balance, the NVA LS7 (TSCS) cables acquitted themselves with great finesse. They were detailed, dynamic, musical and without serious flaws. At the asking price per stereo pair, they represent good value and I would recommend them with confidence – and not just for NVA amplifiers!



**NVA LS7 (TSCS)
LOUDSPEAKER
CABLE
£900 PER 2M
STEREO SET**



**OUTSTANDING - amongst
the best.**

VERDICT

Great sound, tight-fitting banana plugs and lacking serious flaws.

FOR

- Not too bulky or stiff
- Excellent sound quality

AGAINST

- Nothing to speak of

NVA

www.nvahifi.co.uk