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Tara Labs Prism Nexa



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Like many US-based cable companies, Tara sets great store by its special ways of stranding and twisting conductors. There is little or no scientific evidence to support most of this, but it's hard to see how it can do any harm... Anyway, this particular model employs conductors made up of three strands of very high purity copper, with the conductors in turn twisted together under the sheath - a perfectly normal twisted-figure-8 geometry, in effect. There's not all that much copper in the conductors and resistance is slightly on the high side, while capacitance is quite low and lossy. Nexa handles like a solid core cable and is quite springy, but it can be persuaded to lie flat.

Sound quality

There's something of a soft balance to this cable which is likely to polarise opinion strongly. At its worst, it makes the bass a little weak and takes some of the bite out of treble-rich instruments like trumpet. At best, though, it can be really quite beguiling. In fact, despite that softness, tonal qualities are generally well preserved, and both treble and bass are pretty well extended. Detail and clarity are good and there's very decent stereo imaging with all but the toughest tracks - just occasionally the depth becomes rather compressed. At large climaxes the tone hardens slightly but dynamics are good and the overall effect is often exciting. In addition, the soft balance is useful with complex sounds like orchestral violins, which often start sounding synthetic with many cheaper cables: here, they show no such tendency and maintain good detail and purity.

Although there is no area in which this cable could be said to be outstanding, it offers an attractive overall performance and should suit many listeners well - lovers of 'phat' beats possibly excepted. Recommended.

FEATURES

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Hi-Fi Choice, Future Publishing Ltd., 30 Monmouth Street, BATH, BA1 2BW.
hifichoice@futurenet.co.uk Tel: +44 1225 442244 Fax: +44 1225 732248