

# HIFICRITIC

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## DNM Stereo Solid Core Precision

DNM EFFECTIVELY INVENTED THE SOLID-CORE CABLE CONCEPT BACK IN 1984. NOW THERE'S A NEW HIGHER QUALITY VERSION WITH BI-WIRE CAPABILITY. MARTIN COLLOMS REPORTS

Inventor and designer Denis Morecroft, founder of DNM, has been working meticulously for almost two years on this new cable, such is his obsessive need to try and get things just right.

The original standard single wire DNM Mono Solid Core is still available at £7.50 per metre, and has a symmetric ribbon type figure-8 construction using single-strand OFC copper. The new design is £18 per bi-wire metre and may be easily stripped to stereo thus costing £90 per 5m stereo set (unterminated).

Complex characterisation techniques have been used to design the dynamic magnetic performance of the new cable, and balance the capacitance, inductance and resistance – factors which, when correctly aligned, may also improve amplifier sound quality. An offset dielectric guide is used, which is said to greatly reduce the effect of the dielectric on the sound, and that reduced capacitance has allowed closer conductor spacing. A 5m loop has a higher than usual 0.55 ohms resistance, which will give a slightly less bass impact with some low impedance speakers. Capacitance and inductance are low. The cable characteristic may well improve stability for some amps, and does make it compatible with Naim and DNM designs.

It was auditioned in single-wired form, and showed a lighter sounding bass, just slightly under damped and with somewhat less impact when compared with van den Hul *Jade*, but you would need to

make the comparison to be sure. What immediately appealed was the simple and direct sounding midrange, essentially uncoloured, spacious and transparent with a strong central focus and an open natural and sparkling treble. Image depth was good, the sound had unforced, expressive dynamics, and fine overall coherence reinforced a good sense of timing and upbeat rhythm. Yes, it does sound slightly smaller in scale than heftier, lower resistance cables, but the quality shines through in the listening experience, and I was won over by its well balanced musicality. With a fine score of 43 points, it deserves a best buy rating at this price level, and is firmly recommended. For some systems it will truly be the icing on the cake, particularly with the more subtle lower powered amplifiers, and especially low feedback tube designs.



Contact: DNM Design Tel 01480 457989 [www.dnm.co.uk](http://www.dnm.co.uk)