

HMS Duetto Mk III

The DNA of the Greats at the Price of the Small Ones

Can the quality of HMS's top cables be transferred to the entry-level class? A budget tip from the cable specialist.

HMS is now among the most renowned cable manufacturers worldwide. The products of the Leverkusen-based company are particularly well known and highly regarded in the high-end and ultra high-end segments. At HMS, everything is scientifically grounded – there is no voodoo and no inexplicable phenomena, as are often found in the hi-fi cable industry. The Gran Finale, the top cable developed by Hans M. Strassner, the company's founder and namesake, regularly receives awards and accolades around the globe.

This naturally raises the question of whether this level of quality can also be found in the lower budget segment. This is exactly what will be examined using the most affordable interconnect in the HMS lineup – the Duetto.

First impression: The dark blue cable, with a diameter of 7.2 millimeters and therefore relatively thick, is quite stiff and accordingly difficult to route. Bending it too tightly should be avoided – as with all cables – since otherwise the internal conductors



could otherwise be damaged by excessive bending. The construction is a parallel-symmetrical solid-core design with two twisted solid conductors made of high-purity copper. The cable is also highly resistant to interference, meaning it is not easily affected by neighboring power cables. Nevertheless, this should still be avoided – there is no need to unnecessarily provoke interference. If the Duetto still needs to run alongside power or speaker cables, a version with an integrated broadband high-frequency filter against electromagnetic interference is also available. The version I tested was equipped with Neutrik connectors and did not include the filter, and it was used to cable the entire system.

And how does it sound? The difference compared to the infamous basic stock cable is significant: a sense of calm immediately sets in, and the sound becomes much more balanced. The music is presented neutrally and without coloration, with details clearly revealed. However, the Duetto's standout strength is undoubtedly its unrestricted dynamics. The album Broken Boy Soldiers by indie rock band The Raconteurs comes through exactly as intended by the artists: a powerful, (often deliberately) overdriven sound with a wonderfully tight bass. Nothing is softened or smoothed over – exactly as it should be.

Conclusion: The blue cable has no inherent sound of its own – which is arguably the greatest compliment a cable can receive.

The Duetto has clearly inherited characteristics of the larger HMS cables – one could speak of a distinct “family character.” A strong recommendation for anyone who does not want to invest too heavily in cables.

Stefan Fahrholz

Product Information

Interconnect Cable HMS Duetto Mk III

Termination: with RCA connectors

Cable construction: parallelsymmetrisch, 2x Solid Core twisted (shared braided shield)

Conductor material: OFC hoher Reinheit

Outer jacket: polyurethane, abrasion-resistant and flame-retardant

Diameter: 7,2 mm

Minimum recommended bending radius: 30 mm

Dielectric: SPTFE-Folie (Teflon) and SPE (Polyethylen)

Capacitance: 78,0 pF/m

Inductance: 0,42 µH/m

Resistance: 71,4 mΩ/m

Characteristic impedance: 73,4Ω

Price: €186 (2 × 1 m), with filter €248

Contact

www.hmselektronik.com
