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# HI-FI CHOICE



## Wireworld Solstice 5<sup>2</sup>



**Y**ou've got to admire some folks' ingenuity in creating memorable TLAs (Three-Letter Abbreviations). This cable is part of the all-new DNA' range from Wireworld – that's 'Delineated Neutralizing Array'. In the case of the speaker cables in the range, this means that multiple flat, stranded, conductors are stacked diagonally face-to-face, an interesting and unique arrangement that gives the cable high capacitance (so no older Naim or Exposure amps!) and also a rather unwieldy physical nature despite the fairly flexible leadout tails. There's plenty of copper (silver-plated) inside, giving a usefully low resistance and the multiple conductor arrangement means that bi-wiring is an option: indeed, as far as we can see, tri-wiring should be perfectly possible, too.

Having carefully routed the cables so that they didn't try to pull out of the terminals on the amp and speakers,

we found that this is another bit of evidence linking high-capacitance design with astonishingly profound and solid bass. Cables from Townshend, Goertz and Electrofluidics were recalled, as we revelled in believable reproduction of large percussion instruments, double bass and piano. This is one of those cases where what are really quite small and subtle differences seem disproportionately audible. While mostly new-found fine detail in the lowest octaves registers as a whole extra dimension of extension, control and tunefulness. There's no

sense at all of bass bloat: control is close and tight, but if instruments with a lot of bass energy have been faithfully recorded you'll get it all in glorious detail through this cable. Midrange is neutral and dynamically assured, while treble seems effortlessly sweet and detailed. This is a remarkably fine cable.

**HFC**

*Richard Black*

### VERDICT

If you can put up with the rather uncompromising bulk of this cable, its performance is seriously high-end and an attractive price.



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A brand new interconnect, the 1m Solstice 5<sup>2</sup> employs a new proprietary technology that Wireworld calls the 'Delineated Neutralizing Array' (DNA for short). DNA, it is claimed, "optimises the electromagnetic field between the conductors, effectively neutralising the electromagnetic loss that filters the signal in other cables". Hmm.

More expensive models in the range stack the four signal-carrying

conductors in a parallel array that's precisely wound into a helix. This is presumably quite tricky to do; the Solstice 5<sup>2</sup> instead employs a simpler 'flat' variant of the DNA design. These silverclad OFC cores are enclosed within an HDPE dielectric, around which a braided ground screen is woven. The overall cable is jacketed in tough PVC; as with the QED, arrows indicate the recommended direction of signal flow from source to destination. Sensibly, the Solstice 5<sup>2</sup> phono plugs have gold-plated conductors.



The results? Superb detail and stereo imaging over the entire spectrum, coupled with articulate bass and excellent timing.

### Verdict

#### Plus points

Articulate and highly-detailed

#### Minus points

Difficult to fault



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