



HEAR ME SING!

Anyone who experiences the new „Suprema“ RF cables thinks they'd hear the angels sing and may understand HMS' approach differently in the future.

Of course HMS still stands for Hans M. Strassner, who is the technically proficient owner of the, well known among HiFi fans, Leverkusen cable forge. The portfolio's larger conductors are not only developed there, but also manufactured and assembled by hand in painstaking, meticulous and detailed work.

The processes and the entire, completely "voodoo"-free approach of HMS are subject to a pronounced sobriety, which also forms the basis of the new "Suprema"-NF conductors, but which is completely unsuitable for their tonal

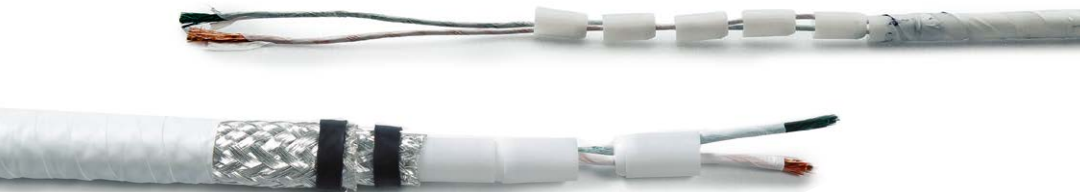
description. On the contrary, there it quickly gets emotional and enthusiastic. We have been listening for years with the Rhineland's thoroughly honest "Gran Finale Jubilee" series. The Supremas not only go beyond them, but also have a different, more touching, if you like, more musical touch to them. This was the case when testing the first Phono-Supremas in December 2017 and is no different with the now following NFs.

Want an example? We had wired our reference system (see test components) completely with HMS, whereby the connections between the source devices and

the preamplifier or between this and the power amplifier were formed alternately by either Gran Finale Jubilee or Suprema. The loudspeaker cable was always HMS' Gran Finale Jubilee in single or bi-wire design - the LS-Suprema is still in the making.

The Suprema's attraction

Having heard Diana Krall's famous "Live In Paris" with the Supremas, afterwards reconnecting the previously praised Gran Finale Jubilees, had an almost "sobering" effect. Not only did the performance suddenly lack something of the expansive spatial dimension and suppleness, it audibly lost grandeur, because now the fine details clumped together slightly, leaving a coarser, less refined impression of the event. With the Supremas the degree of organization was even higher, without thereby taking any analytical perspective. On the contrary, the entire



▲ Foils and braided shields made of silver-plated copper strands keep out electromagnetic and electrostatic fields. In addition, there are ferrite rings against high-frequency interference (not shown).

performance, which spread out in front of the listener, seemed more natural, pleasing and diversified.

This became very clear when we played Vivaldi violin concertos from the Tacet label. Their often dense sound structures, some of which have a glistening presence in the strings, not only were more subtle under the control of the Supremas, which was shown, for example, by the fact that the accompanying harpsichord could be followed more clearly, but also offered a more homogeneous, holistic and relaxed reproduction. With the Gran Finale Jubilee, the upper frequencies became narrower, more brittle, yes, sometimes even somewhat metallic.

Are these reservations at a very high level? Of course! But when you have enjoyed an entire page of this Tacet LP with the Supremas and then switch to the equally high-priced but still much cheaper Gran Finale Jubilees and start again at the same volume, the distance between them becomes immediately evident. There had before been a freer, more graceful and musical ambience with a more pronounced "attraction" to it.

LENGTHS & PRICES

HMS Suprema (Cinch)

Stereo set with WBT NextGen plugs assembled in 1/1.25/1.5/1.75/2 and 3 meters length around 1980/2190/2400/2610/2820 as well as 3660 €, other lengths are possible on request, each additional stereometer plus 840 €.

HMS Suprema SR (XLR)

Stereo set only as „Top Match“ version including impedance adjustment with carbon/stainless steel plugs from Furutech assembled in 1/1,25/1,5/1,75/2 and 3 meters length around 2880/3250/3620/3990/4360 and 5840 €, other lengths are possible, each additional stereometer plus 1480 €.

The "Top Match" impedance adjustment is reserved for the XLR Suprema. It creates subtle sound differences. ►

Brains & Effort

This was all the more surprising as it is usually the Gran Finale Jubilees that outclass their competitors. In order to set the Supremas apart from their previous top product, Hans M. Strassner had to go to great lengths. In the cinch version, for example, the 32 individually coated pure copper strands of the supply and return conductors are passed separately through small Teflon sleeves, so that 95 percent of them are surrounded by air, which is the best insulator after a vacuum. The individual strands are guided in such a way that they constantly change their position within the cable. This way, HMS wants to prevent skin-effects which, due to the magnetic field around the entire conductor, would push primarily higher-frequency signals into its outer areas.

Further there are two shields made of silver-plated copper braiding underneath the soft outer braiding against electrostatic fields. A magnetic foil in the form of a layer of Teflon plus a whole number of ferrite cores of different types then act against magnetic fields in order to achieve the widest possible broadband attenuation of RF interference. Hardly could any more be done!

In the XLR version of the Supremas, HMS relies on a mix of materials. There, conductors of silver-plated copper wire run on a hollow core between the connection pieces designed as above. An "anti-microphonic film" protects the construction from vibrations. The XLR

◀ In the cinch version of the Suprema, the supply and return conductors are guided through hollow Teflon sleeves.



TEST-COMPONENTS

PLAYER: Transrotor Rondino nero/5009/ Figaro

PHONO-PRE: Brinkmann Edison

MULTIPLAYER: T+A MP3100HV

PRE-/ POWER AMP: Accoustic Arts Tube Preamp II MK2/Amp II-MK3

LOUDSPEAKER: B&W 800D3, Dynaudio Contour 60

CABLE: HMS Suprema (Phono), Cardas Clear, HMS Gran Finale Jubilee, In-Acoustics NF 2404 (NF), HMS Gran Finale Jubilee (LS)

version is only available with the 10-stage adjustable impedance matching "Top Match", which marginally increases the current flow via a slightly higher load on the output of the source device, this way supposedly having a positive effect on the distortion behavior.

Despite these differences, the super cables sounded almost identical and were equally impressive in Cinch and XLR, due to their serenity, grace and breathing sound images on the highest level. The musicality of the Supremas suggests a whole new interpretation of the HMS abbreviation: "Hear Me Sing!"

Matthias Boede

Contact: HMS Elektronik
Tel.: +49 2171/734006
www.hmselektronik.com