

# **Glasshouse Interconnect Kit No. 7**

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the Glasshouse Interconnect Kit Number 7 from HiFiCollective enables the construction of the ultimate interconnects in their range. Using some of the finest components available, it is an all silver kit that contains the top-of-the-range Neotech STDST-24 UP-OCC stranded silver wire in Teflon sleeving and a set of four Audio Note AN-GP-AG heavily silver-plated RCA phono plugs. To ensure a high quality build throughout, a suitable length of Mundorf 3.8% silver solder is included with the kit, together with a suitable quantity of coloured heatshrink sleeving.

Any length of interconnects can be made by purchasing an appropriate length of the Neotech wire. For this review, a 1m pair was constructed and 8m of wire was supplied for this purpose. The whole construction process is an easy task for anyone used to using a soldering iron and will only take an afternoon to complete.

The Neotech wire consists of 7 strands of 0.2mm silver wire, which is more flexible than solid core silver wire. It is manufactured using a patented UP-OCC (Ultra-Pure, Ohno Continuous Casting) process, developed by Professor Ohno of the Chiba Institute of Technology in Japan. The benefits of this technology include flexibility, fatigue and corrosion resistance as well as low electrical resistance.

The first task was to plait four equal lengths of the Neotech wire to make a single cable. To do this, the supplied 8m of wire was cut into two pieces and then each piece was folded in half and both pieces looped over a fixed rod, such as a pencil held in a vice. The four 2m wires were then plaited following a simple technique which is best explained by viewing the very helpful YouTube video that HiFiCollective has uploaded (see the link on this web site).

The plaiting process takes around half an hour and the end result is an extremely neat cable. The finished plait is very even throughout the whole length by virtue of the slippery nature of the Teflon sleeving which helped to even out the twists. In order to prevent the four ends of the completed cable from undoing themselves until the connections are soldered, secured them temporarily with some adhesive tape.

Once the plaiting is complete, slip on the coloured heatshrink sleeving over the ends of the cable and solder on the Audio Note RCA phono plugs. Finally, shrink the sleeving with heat from the soldering iron and assemble the plugs.

Before carrying out any kind of listening tests, it is very important to burn them in first. Run them for at least 10 hours before assessing their performance. Alternatively, HiFiCollective can provide a cable burning-in service if required.

After a suitable run-in period, I listened to a selection of well-known recordings covering everything from baroque to a full orchestra. The sound from the violins was open and delicate with amazing detail that was in no way harsh or edgy. It flowed effortlessly and was in perfect balance with the lower registers from the double basses. The overall performance was full, clear and refined.

The Interconnect Kit Number 7 enables a very professional, high quality set of interconnects to be built at significantly lower cost than a comparable set of off-the-shelf interconnects. Superb!