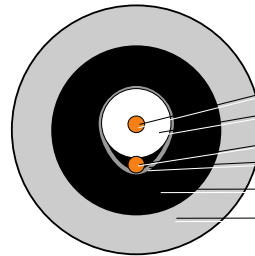




ALPHA-SNAKE

ANALOG AUDIO INTERCONNECT



SYMMETRICAL COAX DESIGN

- 24 AWG Solid Long-Grain Copper (LGC) Conductor (+)
- PVC Insulation
- 24 AWG Solid LGC Conductor (-)
- Foil/Mylar/Foil Shield
- Black PVC Jacket
- Clear PVC Jacket

At first glance, Alpha-Snake's design looks like a traditional coaxial cable. However, there are many very important differences, each of which greatly influences sound quality.

DESIGN BASICS: Alpha-Snake has identical conductors for the positive and ground connections. Underneath the 100% coverage foil shield is a bare conductor, exactly the same as the insulated center conductor. The conductor under the shield does double duty as a low distortion audio connection, and as the drain wire connecting the shield to ground.

CONDUCTORS: Both of Alpha-Snake's conductors are solid. Electrical and magnetic interaction between strands in a conventional cable is the greatest source of distortion, often causing a somewhat dirty harsh sound. Solid conductors are the most important ingredient enabling Alpha-Snake's very clear sound.

METAL: Alpha-Snake's LGC (Long-Grain Copper) allows a smoother and clearer sound than cables using regular OFHC (Oxygen-Free High-Conductivity) copper. OFHC is a general metal industry specification regarding "loss," without any concern for distortion. LGC has fewer oxides within the conducting material, less impurities, less grain boundaries, and definitively better performance.

INSULATION: Any solid material adjacent to a conductor is actually part of an imperfect circuit. Wire insulation, circuit board materials all absorb energy (loss). Some of this energy is stored and then released as distortion. The general cable industry ranks insulating materials by loss, with little regard for distortion. AudioQuest ranks materials by damage to an audio signal. The PVC used in Alpha-Snake has too much loss to be used in a quality video cable, but it has a very benign distortion profile through the audio range, keeping Alpha-Snake's sound pleasant and natural.

TERMINATIONS: Precision gold plated plugs are carefully attached with the very best solder. Through choice of flux and metallurgy, AQ solder has been optimized to make a low distortion connection. All solder, including "silver solder," is a poor conductor. The difference you hear between solders is a result of connection quality. AQ Solder does not have a high silver content because the more silver there is in solder, the more difficult it is to make a good connection.

A combination of these major ingredients, and many more subtle details add up to explain how even an inexpensive cable like Alpha-Snake can sound so good.