

## EQUIPMENT REVIEW

# Atlas Asimi interconnect & Mavros loudspeaker cables

by Adam Blake



**A**tlas Cables is a Scottish company, best known for resisting the fetish for obscure materials surrounding high-end cables. Even its top Mavros speaker cable and new Asimi interconnect feature sensible things like high-purity copper or silver and top-grade Mylar and PTFE.

Atlas uses OCC (Ohno Continuous Casting) conductors. In the late 1970s, professor Atsumi Ohno found that if you heat the mould to a higher temperature than the melted metal you intend to cast, and cool it soon after, the result is one long, pure metal crystal. For Mavros, that spells 99.9997% pure copper conductors; ditto for Asimi, except in silver. In the Asimi and the bass runs of Mavros, these high-purity monocrystal conductors are used in a multi-stranded layout, while the HF runs of Mavros are 1.77mm<sup>2</sup> solid copper cores, all of which are wrapped in individual special low-loss microporous PTFE insulators, and twisted to help lower electromagnetic interference.

Asimi has the two conductors individually wrapped in a jacket of Mylar, packed in cotton, wrapped in a copper/Mylar electrostatic screen and a silver-plated copper braid. This is then housed in a PVC outer jacket which is then wrapped in a sleeve of silver cotton yarn and finished off with a pair of silver-plated OCC plugs, custom designed for the cable.

Mavros speaker cable wrap the four separate conductors in cotton, wraps them in paper, shields them in PVC and shrouds them in a black cotton yarn sleeve. The connectors extrude from a thick metal block and you have a choice of shot-gunned single-wire, bi-wire or bi-amp connections. In other words, both cables are reassuringly rugged and both cables come with a complementary run-in CD.

Taken separately or together, these cables are creamy smooth, dynamic enough to simultaneously rattle fillings or play at a whisper without problems, extremely detailed and extraordinarily neutral; all of the things you want from a cable with none of the things you don't.

There is a slight synergy in using the interconnect and speaker cable together, more because of trying to mix a fundamentally neutral sound with something less close to the ideal. Of the two, Asimi is the more immediately 'impressively unimpressive' cable, by having even less of a tonal influence than the Mavros. This, by comparison, does have a very slight transparency loss in the lower mids.

It's hard not to be seriously impressed with Atlas' Asimi and Mavros pairing. These are two of the very, very best. Plus, it's good to find a truly UK high-end offering. Atlas is definitely on the high-end map! +

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Atlas Asimi  
Silver pseudo-balanced interconnect  
**Resistance:** 0.0181Ω/m @ 27°C  
**Conductor to screen capacitance:** 112.52 pF/m  
**Inter-conductor capacitance:** 50.17 pF/m  
**Conductor - screen inductance:** 0.3496μH/m @ 1 kHz  
**Conductor - conductor inductance:** 0.7162μH/m @ 1 kHz  
**Price as tested:** £2,000 (1m pair)

Atlas Mavros  
Copper bi-wire loudspeaker cable  
**Resistance:** 0.0035 Ω/m @ 26°C  
**Capacitance:** 111.14pF/m  
**Inductance:** 0.3412μH/m @ 1 kHz  
**Price as tested:** £1,390 (3m pair, Z-plugs fitted)

**Manufactured by:** Atlas  
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