

Atlas Cables

Zeno 1:2 headphone cable

WHEN IT COMES to cable upgrades, replacing the cable supplied with a set of headphones is often well down the list of priorities. But, as we shall discover, it's well worth considering. The Zeno cable incorporates Ohno Continuous Cast (OCC) copper conductors that are covered in FEP (fluorinated ethylene propylene) low-temperature deposition dielectric to protect the integrity of the OCC material. The wires are then wrapped in a protective soft PVC inner liner and finished with a tangle-free red fabric outer jacket. A wide range of termination options are available employing Atlas' Metik non-solder crimp plugs to give an airtight metal-to-metal contact.

The Zeno is available fitted as standard with a single 3.5mm stereo plug or two 2.5mm, 6.35mm or 4-pin XLR mini plugs for the

headphone end, together with a choice of 3.5mm, 6.35mm or 4-pin XLR plugs for the amplifier end. In addition, a wide range of brand-specific headphone connectors are also catered for, including Sennheiser. For this review, the cable is tested with a pair of Oppo PM-2 planar magnetic headphones (*HFC 402*).

Moment of truth

Listening to a direct-to-disc vinyl recording of the Syd Lawrence Orchestra playing *Sing Sing Sing*, the track really comes alive. The treble opens up and there is even more excitement in its performance with the already superb Oppo. Bass is tighter and more extended. Swapping back to the supplied cable, the sound

is a little more closed-in and the extreme top end disappears as the performance misses some of the energy of the recording that's gained with the Zeno 1:2 cable in place. This is a serious upgrade for the discerning headphone listener. **NR**



DETAILS

PRICE
£245 for a 3m cable

TELEPHONE
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WEBSITE
atlas-cables.com

OUR VERDICT

