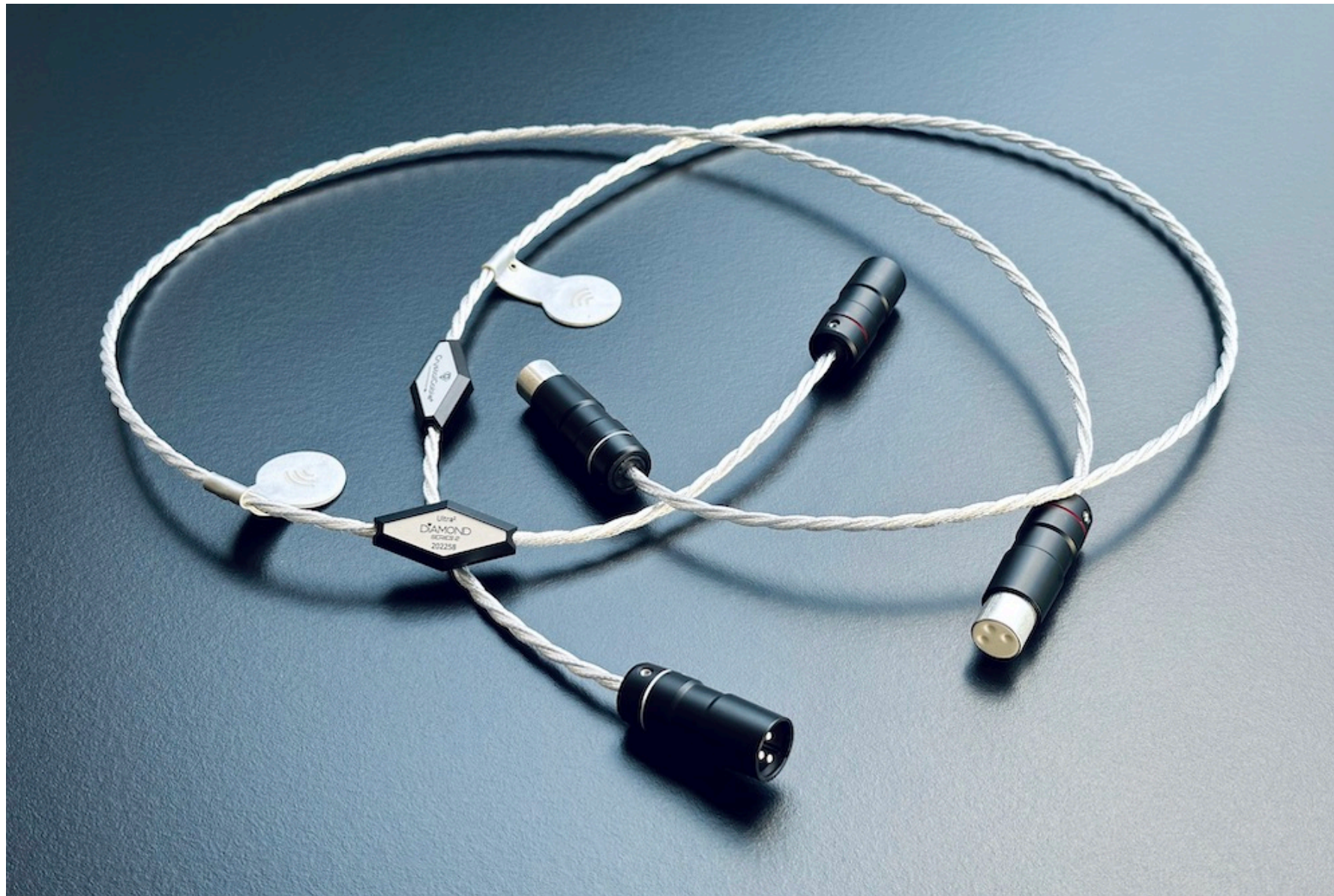


Crystal Cable Diamond Series 2

A great leap forward



Diamond Series 2

Analog Interconnects

When we wrote our [review](#) of Crystal Cable's Diamond Series interconnects in May 2019, we seriously debated if we should write the review at all, given that this generation of cables had been on the market for almost seven years at the time. The reason we decided to do it anyway was that, as far as we could tell, no one had ever written a comprehensive review of the entire series. Which is something we are pretty good at, if we do say so ourselves, and we often get positive feedback on it. When the new top-of-the-range Art Series with the latest generation of silver/gold conductors was announced in late 2020, and sister brand Siltech announced the [Classic Legend](#) series with the same new metallurgy in May 2021, it became inevitable that the Diamond Series would get an update as well. The announcement came at the beginning of December 2022 and we couldn't wait to give this new series a thorough listen. Last week was that moment, you can read about our findings [here](#).



New Metallurgy



Before we start listening, let's take a quick look at the changes the Elst-based silversmiths have made. As mentioned, the new Diamond Series 2 uses the latest - ninth - generation silver/gold alloy for the conductors. But that's not the only thing that's changed. The cable geometry has also been updated. With the previous Diamond Series interconnects, the Piccolo, Micro, and Reference models were constructed as a single shielded conductor per cable, and only the Ultra featured a spiral-shaped, individually shielded and twisted pair of conductors. In the Diamond Series 2, even the smallest Piccolo2 interconnect uses two twisted shielded conductors per cable. As a result, the overall diameter of the cable is almost twice as large, but the price has not gone up that much. While the extremely sleek appearance of the old series is now a thing of the past, the Series 2 offers a slightly larger conductor gauge, has virtually the same flexibility and, to be honest, feels a lot more robust. Another (big) advantage is that all Series 2 models are now available as balanced cables with XLR connectors at no extra cost.

Listening to the Crystal Cable Diamond Series 2

Our test procedure should be well known by now, but for new readers, we are happy to explain it again - briefly. In this case, we decided to use the XLR versions of the cables to connect the **AURALiC Altair G2.1** streamer/pre-amplifier to the Linn Klimax power amp. The rest of the system was wired with Crystal Cable as well.

We started the listening session with a balanced Micro Diamond interconnect from the previous series, serving as a reference point. We had selected three tracks that would showcase all aspects of the sound: Allegra from the album On Giacometti by Hania Rani, At Dusk from the album Sounds Between Falling Leaves by Lisette Spinnler and I Kustbanded from the album Radio Mnemosyne by the Swedish project Snufmumriko.



CRYSTAL CABLE DIAMOND SERIES 2 INTERCONNECTS

Crystal Cable Micro Diamond



As mentioned before, we started with the old Micro Diamond. The track by Hania Rani sounded deep and mysterious. The rattling of the piano's mechanism sounded like swelling thunder, and the bass was punchy but lacked absolute depth. The image, on the other hand, was deep and clean. With Lisette Spinnler the sound was transparent and beautifully layered. Dynamics and bass pressure were excellent, cymbals sounded crisp and clean, drums had plenty of detail and texture and the piano had a rich sound. With Snufmumriko, the first thing that stood out was the bass. It had both tone and pressure. Small details, such as the bird sounds at the beginning, were easy to hear and had a well-defined place in the mix. One of the many layers in the mix is a kind of static crackle, the high-frequency impulses of which should be easily identifiable, and the Micro Diamond was quite successful at this.

CRYSTAL CABLE DIAMOND SERIES 2 INTERCONNECTS

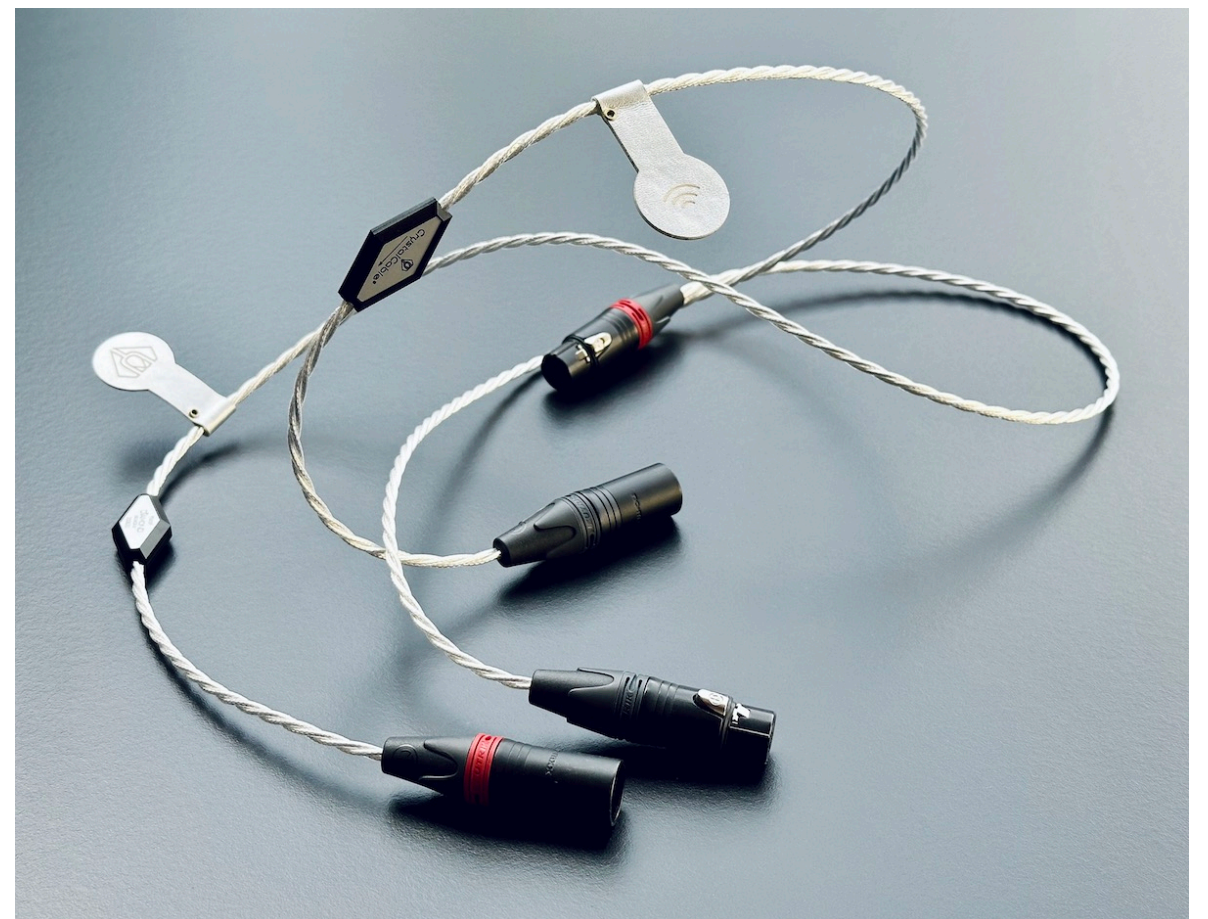
Piccolo2 Diamond



With Snufmumriko's track, the Piccolo2 brought a spectacular increase in detail that sounded very natural. The static crackle was more differentiated, the bass was more controlled and the overall sound was more transparent (more detail without an increase in treble). The attack of the bass was faster, even at its low level in the mix. With Lisette Spinnler, the instruments were better outlined, which increased transparency, and we heard an expanded soundstage (especially deeper) with more tonal color. Furthermore, a trace of stress was removed from the voice, as the mid and high frequencies - the -s and -t sounds - were a little more relaxed. There was less veiling due to the reduced coloration of the bass. Hania Rani's piano had more impact, and the attack sounded more physical, with more micro-dynamics at low levels. The soundstage was more transparent and the bass had more substance.

Micro2 Diamond

With Hania Rani, the rattling of the piano mechanism sounded more like wood, with more texture. The bass was more powerful and dynamic. As a result, the lowest notes were more audible. The overall level of detail had also increased, but there was no real difference in fluidity. With Lisette Spinnler there was more punch in the bass. It sounded like the volume had increased and the dynamic impact was more pronounced. There was also more detail, with more color and texture in the piano sound. In the voice, the -s and -t sounds were a little more pronounced and the cymbals sounded fresher and more natural. The Snufmumriko track is where this cable gained the most, the increased detail was fantastic, the image was bigger, the static crackles sounded fuller and more tantalizing, and there was more differentiation in their volume. The animal sounds and the lapping water at the beginning sounded more spacious and natural.



Siltech Classic Legend 380i



Given that the Siltech Classic Legend 380i is practically the same price as the Crystal Cable Micro2 Diamond, we made a comparison between these cables. The Siltech has the same conductive material, but what does the different construction of this cable bring? In short, robustness. Snufmumriko's track initially sounded a little more closed in, the static crackling a little less tantalizing, but this was compensated for by a more relaxed image, just as wide but a little less deep. The bass was more pronounced, the Micro2 being slightly leaner, or perhaps more neutral. The Siltech Classic Legend 380i added a little more color to the sound. With Lisette Spinnler there was also more timbre, with more drive and dynamics, and the voice sounded more relaxed. Also very beautiful. Which cable you prefer is really a matter of taste.

Reference2 Diamond

With the Reference2, Lisette Spinnler's voice sounded more tangible, effortless, and supple. In short, more natural. The cymbals sounded cleaner and more colorful. The dynamics were more or less the same, but the separation between the different parts of the mix was better, with an increase in coherence. The texture of the cymbals was great, and the richness of the piano and its decay... wow! The ambient sounds and static crackle at the beginning of Snufmumriko's track were much more palpable, there was more poise and naturalness, and the bass was wonderfully fluid. Hania Rani's rattling piano mechanism was more clearly connected to the sound of the strings, allowing us to hear the piano as one instrument, with the rattle sounding less like an added effect. Again there was an increase in composure and transparency without sounding tame, the bass was beautiful and very clean. The soundstage became more like a world of sound.



CRYSTAL CABLE DIAMOND SERIES 2 INTERCONNECTS

Ultra2 Diamond



With Snufmumriko the Ultra2 brought another giant leap in immersiveness, the level of detail was incredible, and it was transparent without so much as a hint of sharpness. The ambient sounds and static crackle sounded almost holographic, and the layering of the image was astonishing. Once again, there was an increase in poise and fluidity, the music seemed to 'sublimate' from a pitch-black background. With Hania Rani, the sound of the instrument's mechanism became even more audible, and its integration with the sound of the strings was even cleaner. There was also an increase in timbre, without any additional stress. The keywords were serenity and ease of listening. The sound was dynamic and fast, with more power in the bass, but beautifully clean. Each part of the mix occupied its identifiable space in the picture. With Lisette Spinnler - and we've said this before - we were sitting right next to her in the studio. This last bit of realism comes at a relatively high price, which applies equally to other brands, but it is well worth it.

CRYSTAL CABLE *DIAMOND SERIES 2* INTERCONNECTS

The bottom line

Crystal Cable's Diamond2 series now features the G9 silver/gold metallurgy, and that pays off in a fantastic upgrade in sound quality. We almost hesitate to say this, but the entry-level Piccolo2 already outperforms the Micro from the previous series. Compared to the Classic Legend series from sister brand Siltech, Crystal Cable's new Diamond 2 series sounds a little more neutral. For us, the biggest difference is in the high-frequency response. This is where the new Diamond 2 Series delivers an obvious honesty and refinement that we have not heard from interconnects in this price range before. This can make them a little more critical at times, but if you are mainly playing good recordings on a high-resolution hi-fi system, we find it hard to imagine cables that will sound more beautiful.



CRYSTAL CABLE DIAMOND SERIES 2 INTERCONNECTS

Music and Information

More information and prices about the described Crystal Cable Diamond Series 2 analog interconnects, can be found in our webshop:

[Crystal Cable Diamond Series 2 Interconnects](#)

Snufmumriko: Radio Mnemosyne

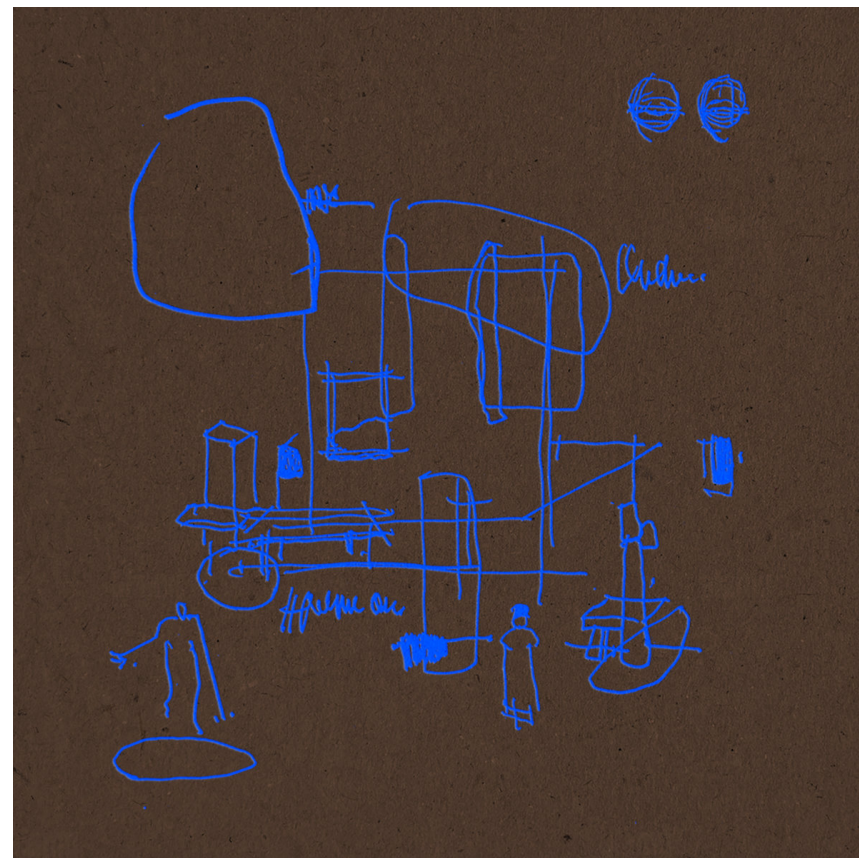
[Tidal](#)
[Qobuz](#)
[Spotify](#)
[Apple Music](#)

Hania Rani: On Giacometti

[Tidal](#)
[Qobuz](#)
[Spotify](#)
[Apple Music](#)

Lisette Spinnler: Sounds Between Falling Leaves

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