

Supra interconnect & speaker connectors  
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AUDIO  
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INTERCONNECT



# Supra Sword-ISL (£380/1m)

Supra's flagship interconnect cable is a top performer with an explicit, detailed sound  
 Review: John Bamford

**W**hen featuring Supra's flagship Sword speaker cable in these pages earlier this year [see *HFN* June '09] we mentioned that each set of spade-terminated cables came with a complimentary pack of Supra's ingenious CombiCon connectors. Space prevented us showing them separately, however we had another CombiCon set sent to our offices – and here they are, shown on the right. A set of four, available as banana/BFA pins or spades, costs £30. But what you might really want in your accessories drawer is Supra's CombiCon 'Kit' which costs only a fiver more and comprises a set of four bodies, four banana/BFA pins and four spade connectors. Finished in 24K gold they are beautifully made, suitable for cables up to 6mm diameter, and the spades will fit terminals up to 9mm diameter. What's clever is that the pins unscrew so that a banana can become a spade and *vice-versa* in an

**RIGHT:** Supra's CombiCon connectors are an ingenious accessory worthy of any enthusiast's tool box



instant. If you're in the habit of swapping and changing amplifiers (or speakers) on a regular basis, trying stuff out with your friends, perhaps, then these CombiCons are a highly recommended accessory.

Meanwhile Supra has also loaned us a sample of its flagship interconnect cable, called Sword-ISL to accompany its Sword speaker cables. Presented in a wooden box to reinforce its flagship status, the Sword employs similar 'bifilar wound' litz conductors to the speaker cables, hand made in 0.8 and 1m lengths (£350/£380) fitted with locking RCAs. Add £30 for the Sword-IXLR versions with XLR termination. Longer lengths cost £30 per 0.2m (stereo).

## WIDE OPENING

From the opening bars of Barb Jung's interpretation of 'The Times They Are A-Changing' it was evident this is a strikingly detailed sounding cable.

Overall balance was reminiscent of the Deltec Black Slink auditioned recently in my system. Used between Wadia CD player and Levinson amplifier (driving Townshend Galahad speakers) it

proved ideally suited to my system thanks to its pristine clarity and taut bass ameliorating the sometimes over-lush balance of the speakers.

Listening to further tracks on Barb Jung's beautifully recorded *Just Like A Woman* SACD [Linn AKD 309] revealed fabulous texture and appropriate 'slap' to Danny Thompson's bass accompaniments together with fabulously unfettered dynamic swings. ☺

## HI-FI NEWS VERDICT

Befitting of a flagship product, the Sword-ISL is luxurious in its construction and highly transparent in its sound performance. Fine details in recordings are wholly preserved, the cable never appearing to get in the way of the musical information flowing through. As with any expensive, high-end cable designed to do justice to a high-end system you need to hear it in order to confirm it balances nicely with your components. In my system it sounded 'clean' and explicit: just how I like it.

Sound Quality: 90%

