

Crystal Cable Absolute Dream USB

Dreaming is about as far as most of us will ever get to owning a length of Crystal Cable's flagship USB cable. Each heavy metre comprises four coaxial 'solid-core' cables, the central conducting axis a single silver strand sheathed in two layers of Kapton and clamped within a PEEK (Polyether ether ketone) dielectric. This core is surrounded, in turn, by two peripheral braids composed of silver-plated 'monocrystal' copper strands and gold-plated monocrystal silver strands. Hence the price...

Inserted into the test rig, our 1m length of Absolute Dream showed the lowest

deterministic jitter and the fastest data edge risetime of 11.0nsec [see eye pattern].

OUTRAGEOUS

As corny as it may appear, the most outrageously priced USB cable in our survey was, indeed, voted the 'best all-rounder' by our panel of blind listeners. We were greeted by realistic 'whoops, hollers and hand-claps' from the audience as the live 'Hotel California' burst into the room.

Don Henley's charismatic vocals were delightfully easy to discern 'almost like he's taken diction lessons' quipped one listener as we tapped our feet right through to the end of this very familiar track. In

essence, this cable offers the smooth, creamy lushness of the warmer-sounding cables and yet combines this with a spaciousness and the sparkle of the livelier sounding cables.

The crispness and delicacy of the cymbal work from Oscar Peterson's 'You Look Good To Me' was spectacular, the weight of the double-bass enhancing the huge width and depth of the soundstage. You could almost reach out and touch the atmosphere. Absolute Dream USB is well-named.

