

# GPoint-Audio

## Albedo Monolith loudspeaker cable

### THIS POLISH CABLE

manufacturer is distributed by GPoint-Audio. Albedo has been manufacturing its own cables for over 16 years and the company prides itself in offering high-quality interconnects and loudspeaker cables that are excellent value for money.

Not prepared to simply repackage and rebrand products from other manufacturers, Albedo takes control of all stages of the manufacturing process, from the smelting of its own silver to placing the cables in boxes ready for delivery. As a company, it focuses on attention to detail and prioritises high-quality research and development activity. It has also put in place intensive quality control processes to ensure that every product that leaves its factory is of the highest quality.

Despite the small scale and artisan manufacturing processes involved in the manufacture of the cables, over 10,000 metres of Monolith cables have already been sold throughout the world!

### Silver service

Monolith is one of the premium cables of Albedo's range and is available as both interconnect and loudspeaker cables. The Monolith loudspeaker cable that is reviewed here is constructed from wide, very thin silver ribbons similar to those used in its interconnect cables. However, the silver ribbons in the speaker cable are run separately in antistatic air-filled insulation and enveloped in a silver-coloured outer coating. The cables are terminated

### DETAILS

**PRICE**  
£700 per 1.5m pair  
£1,200 per 3.5m pair

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### OUR VERDICT



with Albedo's high-quality silver spades or BFA beryllium-copper gold-plated banana plugs.

Out of the box, the cables look very well made, with good attention to detail. The pair of cables are clamped together with a neat plastic clamp at the end, embossed with the Monolith logo, to ensure they remain tidy when connected to the loudspeaker. The cable directionality is also marked by an arrow on the right of the Monolith logo – a nice touch! In my experience, cables do actually have a preferred direction and, of course, need to be run in before they start sounding their best. I'm a great fan of silver cables and find that they suit my all-valve system extremely well, so I am expecting great things from these speaker cables.

I'm not a fan of cables lying around the room on the carpet or behind equipment, so I am very pleased to note that another benefit of these cables is their flat construction, which makes it very easy to hide them around the edge of, or underneath a carpet. Being flat also helps with navigating them around corners in the quest for inconspicuousness.

### 3D sound

First impressions are extremely good. There is no trace of any 'silvery' harshness or awkwardness that can often plague silver cables. Instead, there is just an easy, open sound with lashings of detail and a wonderful sense of spaciousness. The cables convey music in a truly three-dimensional way in height, depth and width – wonderful! Instruments are located around the

soundstage with pinpoint accuracy. The crystal-clear top end is balanced by a splendidly full and uninhibited bass and pushing the music out to the loudspeakers seems an effortless task for the amplifier. The sound of a full orchestra is one of refinement with an engaging musicality. The richness of the music is enhanced by very expressive crescendos – almost as though there is more headroom for the louder passages to fully express themselves.

Moving on to some baroque music, solo instruments have superb realism and presence. Detail and presence are beautifully conveyed with delicate-sounding instruments such as the harpsichord, which harmonises well with the *continuo*.

Vocals are, once again, perfectly located in the sound stage giving clarity and a real sense of being there in the room. With my recording of Bach's *B Minor Mass* all the members of the choir are clearly heard as individuals rather than a bland choral noise. Somehow, there appears to be more information and quality relayed to the loudspeakers – a little extra timbre to male vocals, or a breath between notes as the performer inhales a little wisp of air.

These silver cables represent excellent value for money and are certainly up there among some of the best I've ever heard. They are very well made and good attention has been paid to detail in design. If you are in the market for a set of new, high-end speaker cables, then these should most definitely be placed towards the top of your 'must audition' list! **NR**

