

haute fidélité



LIGNE DE CABLES

Clarus Crimson Mk2



Clarus is an American cable brand newly distributed in France, founded by Joe Perfito. Being close to Gordon Gow, the famous co-creator of McIntosh, he created the company Gordon J. Gow Technologies in his honor. In 1991, Joe Perfito then launched a brand of cables specializing in high-end cables, called Tributaries (a Tribute to Gordon Gow). In 2013, in collaboration with the designer Jay Victor, well known in this field, Joe started Clarus, the audiophile brand above Tributaries. Clarus has two models, Crimson and Aqua. Here we test the ultimate Crimson models. The quality of the Clarus is based on a trilogy: highest quality copper, good conductor separation and excellent shielding.

The brand even goes so far as to assign a sophisticated geometry, patented, depending on the frequencies to be reproduced. For low frequencies large gauge, solid diameter conductors were chosen, for the mid-frequencies a flat conductor with large surface area, and for the high frequencies a spiral ribbon wire, with a non-conductive core. The common point is the use of PCCC copper of high purity (Continuous Casting), type monocrystalline without oxygen. Clarus cables integrate a number of patented technologies, being built with the best possible materials and metallurgy, such as the gold-plated, individually insulated, hand-assembled with meticulous craftsmanship in Orlando, Florida.



THE CRIMSON MK2 LINE

We tested the complete Crimson Mk2 line including RCA and XLR cables, the mains cord and the loudspeaker connections, also available as a bi-wiring output. Added to this are the SPDIF, AES/EBU and USB digital models of same technology. These Crimson cables use polyethylene (PE) insulation offering low loss, for added definition. Each strand has also its own insulation, making dielectric absorption optimal. Sophisticated proprietary geometry is designed to minimize harmful magnetic fields, reducing distortion. The contacts of connectors are Tellurium copper for a very low resistance and better sound. Beryllium is also used on the ground of the RCA connectors while the male center pin is hollow to reduce eddy currents. The mains connectors are audiophile grade made of gold-plated pure copper, the cover being made of Polyacetal POM resin covered with carbon fiber,

reducing vibrations and EMI/RFI emissions. Finally, the finish is impeccable, dark and discreet, where one notices especially the quality of the components, such as the thick one-piece copper cable forks HP, validating the high-end status of these models.

LISTENING

Clarus cables are very surprising, because they do not correspond to the image that one can have of products from across the Atlantic. Their signature sound is characterized by incomparable clarity over the entire bandwidth, without brutality or effects overplayed in order to impress. A soothing tendency emanates from it, apt to promote long plays, the mid/treble being extremely delicate, open, as if illuminated by the presence of a multitude of clearly legible, details, particularly in the higher frequencies, which are revealed in a silky way.



The Clarus cables are very airy on cymbals, strings and harmonics extremes, like Richard's concert accordion Galliano, in duet with Ron Carter, whose slats sound very authentic. The double bass for its part is really well articulated, the perception of fingers sliding over the strings is truthful, and no blistering is felt. The Crimson also know how to descend into the extreme bass when it must, with clarity. These cables give the impression of broadband reproduction, with no break between the registers, which on the contrary merge harmoniously, proving the soundness of the chosen technologies. The sound image is also homogeneous, in a realistic dimensional space, without overflow issues. The general dynamics follows the intensity of the musical nuances, without shamelessness, the Crimsons demonstrating a serene tranquility, avoiding any fatigue, but ready to start in the event of an instantaneous deviation, following the sine wave as closely as possible. Each of the links of the line carries the event musical serenely, to better make you appreciate it and be forgotten.

Value for money: The Clarus Crimson Mk2 immediately place themselves in a superior price category which can be explained in view of the patented technologies used and materials of the best quality, without small savings, for the sake of ubiquitous perfection. Their dark appearance is rather discreet, without a flashy aesthetic effect, but their handcrafted construction in Florida is bound to have a price. By the perceived general quality, it appears justified.

VERDICT

The Clarus Crimson are decidedly singular, because they dramatically improve clarity and definition, in favor of a more open and transparent musical rendering than most normal listening. They also deliver the dynamics in a calm way, but when necessary, to finally fade away and serve the musical event. Properly combined, they can perfectly complement a system that needs fullness and musical tranquility, to go towards the expression of a certain sense of truth.

Bruno Castelluzzo

Origin: United States

RCA: 2180 euros (1 m) XLR: 2950 euros (1m)

Sector: 1990 euros (1 m) HP: 7210 euros (3 m)

