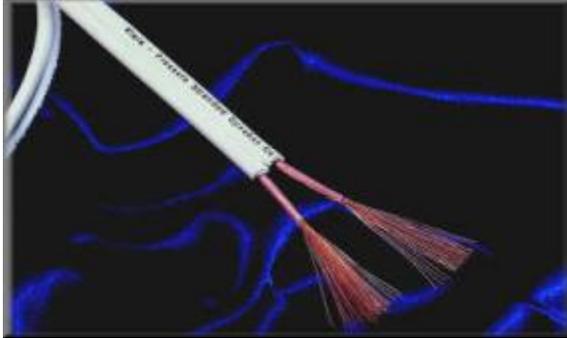


Hi-Fi Choice

November, 1998

by Richard Black

Prism Klara from TARA Labs



TARA is an American firm which includes some frighteningly expensive cables in its product line, but Klara is a budget buy by any standards. It's a simple figure-8 design, although it has a couple of subtleties: apparently the insulator is a double-layer affair with an inner layer of polythene and an outer of PVC, and the stranded copper conductors are 'Pressure-Stranded' to increase the contact between them along the length. It's a very flexible cable, and arrived for review with good-quality [Banana](#) plugs fitted. It's worth noting that the review sample was only 3m long (all other cables except the van den Hul were between 4.5 and 5.5m).

SOUND QUALITY

Considering this was the cheapest cable in this survey, it put up a credible fight. In more rarefied areas of hi-fi it would be damning with faint praise to say there were no obvious flaws, but in a case like this that's generally something to be grateful for. The weakest area was probably imaging, but even there performance was no worse than average. Bass extends a fair way down and is always

SPECIFICATIONS

- Topology: figure-8
- Conductor: stranded 'Oxygen-Free High Purity Copper'
- Dielectric: polythene

tuneful and well balanced with the upper registers, and treble is generally clean and tidy, though occasionally very bright instruments like trumpet seemed to be a bit out on a limb and separated from the rest of the band. Voice was well served, singly and en masse, and ambience seemed a little dry. Individual lines in dense music were quite easy to follow - a good result at this price.

CONCLUSION

This cable has slightly higher resistance and [Inductance](#) than average, and low [Capacitance](#): it should suit budget amps and speakers especially well. Good Value, and Recommended.

VERDICT



A good budget cable with an even spread of virtues - and very minor vices - across the board.

LIFE TIME GUARANTEE
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