

## EVIDENCE AUDIO Lyric Cable



List price: \$61 (10' Length)

**Pros:** Sounds smooth and rich; high-end quality at a reasonable price

**Cons:** Solid-core conductors reduce flexibility

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### BY TERRY BUDDINGH

The ideal cable transfers the signal from a bass to an amp without imparting any sonic influence of its own. Unfortunately, all cables possess certain electrical characteristics that alter the sound. The best cable can only strive to influence the sound the least—and all cables influence the sound to some extent. Evidence Audio engineer Tony Farinella believes solid-core wire provides more low-end tightness and accuracy, unlike some other cables, which are made with stranded wire for flexibility. Unlike most instrument cables that use a single conductor surrounded by a shield, Evidence Audio's Lyric uses two conductors made from high-purity copper. Farinella believes that this design provides the purest signal path from the instrument to the amp and contributes to improved dynamic response. The Lyric's high-density copper shield is attached only at the amplifier end. According to Farinella, this asymmetrical design helps keep noise picked up by the shield out of the signal path,

where it's unable to mask subtle details.

Tony believes the conductor needs to be large enough in diameter to convey dynamic punch, yet small enough to preserve high-frequency detail. To further preserve dynamics and detail, the Lyric is insulated with foamed polypropylene insulation. The down side to this, however, is reduced flexibility. A few staffers complained of difficulty coiling the Lyric.

For savoring the most microscopic nuances, I plugged an assortment of basses into a high-fidelity Avalon U5 direct box/preamp and listened through the U5's headphone output with a pair of pro-grade Sennheiser HD-600 headphones. With both passive and active basses, the Lyric's exceptionally smooth and rich texture always stood out when compared to other cables. The Lyric's real strength is in its lower registers: Fundamentals sound especially strong, solid, and focused with excellent response to subtle dynamic nuances. The Lyric's weighty lows combined with its thick and juicy midrange to make some other cables sound lean and dry in comparison.

While most high-end cables are intended for universal applications, the Lyric's exceptional low-end performance is especially well suited for bass. The Evidence Audio Lyric is a reasonably priced cable with faithful dynamic response and smooth-textured solid fundamentals—and that's music to budget-conscious bassists' ears. **BP**

### TECH SPECS

While most cables use a conductive shield and a single interior conductor, Evidence Audio's Lyric instrument cables use two solid-core copper conductors and a braided copper shield that is attached only at the amplifier end. The additional conductor provides the ground connection between the bass and amp, while the shield provides a barrier against radio-frequency (RF) noise. Friction can cause variations in a cable's capacitance, which results in handling noise. To reduce this phenomenon, known as "triboelectric noise," the Lyric's two conductors are wrapped with graphite tape.