



ATLAS ZENO HEADPHONE CABLE £175 (FOR 1M)

Replacement headphone cables are an obvious upgrade path for the dedicated headphone user looking to squeeze an extra slice of sound quality from their (often) significant financial investment.

The Zeno, is a lightweight, solder-free affair utilising Metek plugs and Ohno Continuous Cast (OCC) copper conductors covered in FEP (Fluorinated ethylene propylene) low temperature deposition dielectric covered in a soft PVC inner liner, plus a fabric outer jacket. Connectivity options are varied and numerous and include 2.5mm, 3.5mm, 6.3mm and 4-pin XLR mini at the headphone end with the amp end offering 3.5mm, 6.3mm and 4-pin XLR as options.

This means that you can attach this Atlas cable to headphones from Sennheiser, Audeze, AudioQuest,

OPPO, Ultrasone, Sure, AKG and HiFiMan. Talk to your dealer or Atlas for forthcoming new brand additions.

My review cable was created to plug into a pair of Sennheiser HD800s which I duly did and spun up a CD of Bing Crosby's 'Bing on Broadway' and the track 'Mandy'.

There were improvements in several areas. The most noticeable was the Crosby lead vocal itself which exhibited a removal of midrange bloom. More subtle effects were heard on the bass which added a degree of tonal realism while plucked double bass strings sounded characterful, with an enhanced resonance from the bass body.

I then turned to Neil Young's energetic rock outing on vinyl, 'Ragged Glory'. There was an agreeable clarity in the overall presentation of the music which gave it a sense of air and openness that allowed the performance to flow easily.

Sonic improvements were obvious and welcome – although there was not really enough for the price point. Nevertheless, you feel that the Zeno encourages a real sense of control behind the music being played, an order and a focus that adds to the emotion of the performance. **PR**

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