

AudioQuest Rocket 22 £20/m

WHAT HI-FI?
★★★★★

We have high hopes for Audioquest's Rocket 22. This speaker cable is the step-up option to the Rocket 11 that won our Accessories Award last year.

The 22's design uses higher quality copper conductors with a polished outer surface that's claimed to give a 'sweeter' high-frequency performance. The conductors use strands arranged in concentric layers, with this configuration claimed to reduce unwanted interactions between strands and so lower distortion.

Each pair of conductors is then twisted to improve rejection of external

interference. There are four pairs of conductors per channel, and while our sample of the cable was terminated to be single-wired, the construction opens up the Rocket 22 to be biwired too.

The cable also uses Audioquest's Noise Dissipation System, special layers of shielding that reduce the impact of radio and electromagnetic interference.

While this is a chunky cable, it's also extremely flexible and shouldn't cause any issues when installed. It's available in two colour options - black or white

The Rocket 22 isn't a cable you should judge on an initial quick listen. Straight out of the packaging, it sounds a little thick and murky, but given a few days of use, the sonic presentation opens up considerably. We use it as part of our reference stereo set-up, as well as with Naim's Uniti Star and a pair of Dynaudio Special 40 speakers with consistent and pleasing results.

In both systems, we enjoy a spacious and refined presentation, one that sounds noticeably larger scale than when we substitute the Chord RumourX and Ecosse ES2.23+ alternatives.

The sound is impressively detailed, uncovering low-level information and arranging it in a stable and cohesive manner. All that detail isn't overtly highlighted either; it exists in an even-handed delivery without emphasis. All of this makes for an easy-going balance that makes the Rocket 22 suitable for a wide range of systems.

Despite its civilised nature, there's still enough dynamic punch and rhythmic drive to allow the energy and attack of Nirvana's *Nevermind* to shine through.

The Rocket 22 continues the work of its Award-winning sibling. In a talented set-up, the price difference between this and the 11 can be justified by the clear improvement in detail and authority.

WHAT HI-FI?

RATING ★★★★★

SOUND



COMPATIBILITY



BUILD



FOR

- Refined character
- Produces a spacious sound
- Flexible configuration options

AGAINST

- Tough competition

VERDICT

The Rocket 22 is a fine, well balanced cable that should work well in a wide range of systems