

WHAT HI★FI?

SOUND AND VISION

THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT BUYER'S GUIDE

AWARDS

2004

THE
UK'S
NO.1

BEST STEREO INTERCONNECT UNDER £50

van den Hul
The Name £40

→ VERDICT

van den Hul might raise a few eyebrows with The Name, but there's absolutely no question mark over its performance – it easily sounds like the best in its class

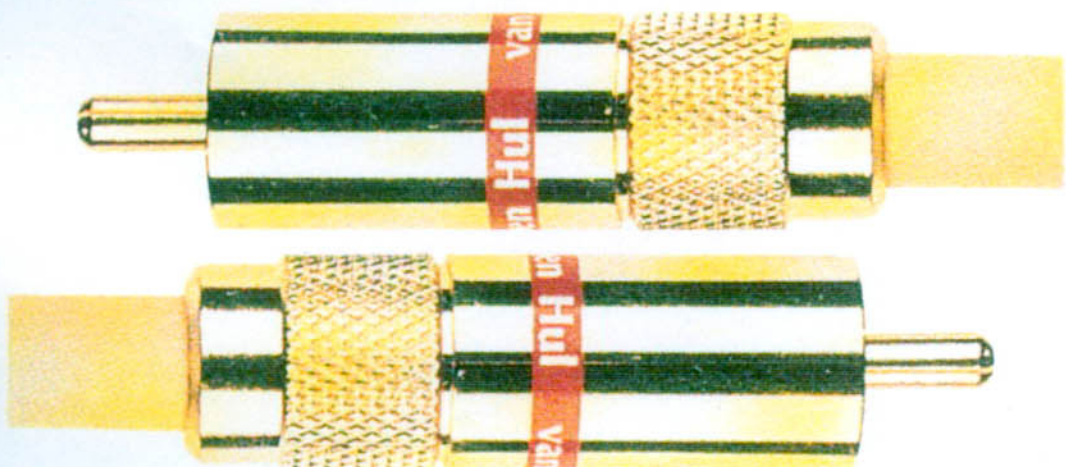
DON'T LET THE Name confuse you (if it hasn't done already) – this is the interconnect to have at this price.

A relatively modest investment of your hard-earned will return an enlightened and hugely entertaining sound. You're treated to a beautiful sonic balance. Instruments and

vocals sound natural and are relayed in all their original glory with an even-handed approach across the whole of the frequency range.

Its timing ability maintains an accurate and precise rendition of the Black Eyed Peas' *Shut Up*: the track stops and starts in all the right places with no loss of direction. The Name also allows for a rich and full-bodied presentation without losing any vital resolution along the way. Every ounce of detail is fashioned exceptionally for your enjoyment

It's easy to get confused due to van den Hul's too-clever naming ploy, but we're convinced The Name's sonic character will shine through. It's a cracking choice.



BEST MAINS LEAD OVER £100

van den Hul
Mainsstream £200

→ VERDICT

Possibly the greatest upgrade option currently available on the open market – after its recent £200 price slash, this comes heartily recommended for its absolute all-round excellence

PRODUCTS DO DROP stars from time to time – mainly due to advances in the competition. However, there aren't too many products that pick stars up over time. The Mainsstream is the exception.

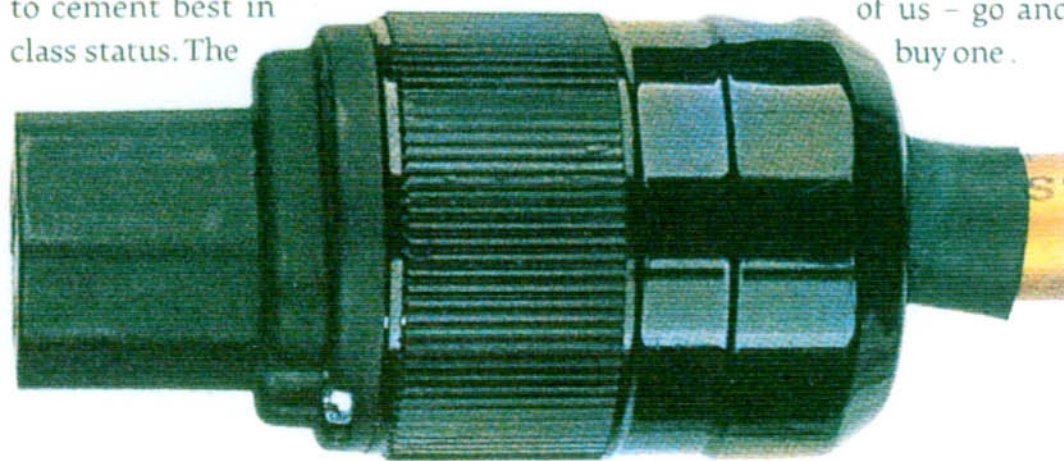
Not only that, but it's managed to cement best in class status. The

van den Hul lead produces an improvement in sound quality that's usually reserved for more expensive mains blocks and conditioners.

The Mainsstream is no ordinary cable, using high-purity, silver-coated, oxygen-free copper conductors with extensive shielding.

The net result is a more refined and mature delivery across the board. Subtler sounds are made clearer, and there's a greater impression of space around instruments and vocals.

Before its recent price drop, the Mainsstream was a super-premium product that only high-end system users could justify buying. However, now it's within reach of far more of us – go and buy one.

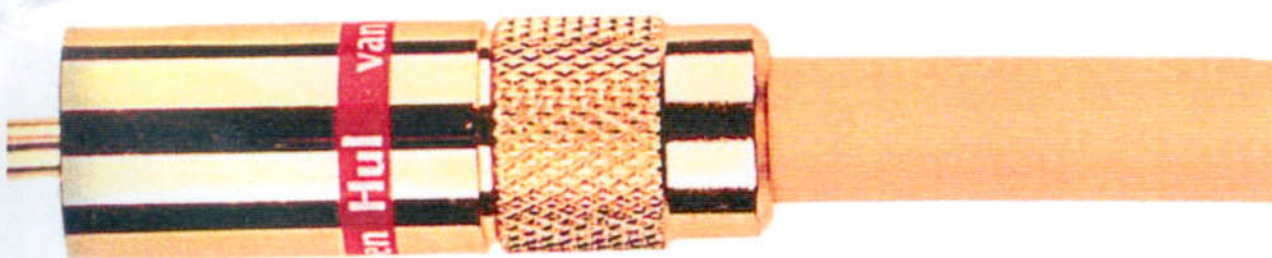


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STEREO INTERCONNECTS | Round-up |



van den Hul
The Name 0.8m £40

STEREO INTERCONNECT

Odd, er, name, but with performance like this, who cares? A modest investment returns a lovely sonic balance with great dynamics. Tunes stop and start with accuracy and The Name sounds rich without losing information. So good they Named it once.

---> **VERDICT**

This bizarrely named cable is a true professional when it comes to performance. It's a cracking choice



van den Hul
Bay C5 £50

STEREO INTERCONNECT

---> **VERDICT**

This cable is the one to go for if you value refinement and smoothness above all. It has great resolution, too



van den Hul
Mainsstream £200

MAINS LEAD

---> **VERDICT**

A 50 per cent price cut means the vdH now earns five stars. It boosts the dynamics and detail of any set-up



van den Hul
Mainsstream 2m £200

MAINS CABLE

When we last reviewed this cable it cost £400. Even then we awarded it four stars, but with a 50 percent price cut this lead is stunning value. Hook it up – even to a ten-grand system – and presentation sounds much better. It's that simple. Go out and buy one... or two!

---> **VERDICT**

A gargantuan drop in price makes this lead one of the singularly most effective upgrades in the hi-fi world

