

## It's a celebration!

Any hi-fi enthusiast who has dabbled in cable upgrades over the past two decades or more will have heard - or at least heard of - the Van den Hul D - 102 Mk III. In its latest, hybrid guise, it still offers a gutsy, full and open-staged take on any music, with good pace and punch to match. Celebrating two decades of excellence is this special version of the D - 102, dubbed The Jubilee. And the most important difference - except the price, of course - is the fact that The Jubilee has a duo of solid-silver conductors.

The specially constructed conductors are lacquered and impervious to external influences, including moisture and mechanical stress. Triple shielding - two helical layers of densely woven, silver-coated oxygen-free copper strands, with a LSC (linear structured carbon) foil layer in between, prevents any electronic interference.

The shielding is connected at the source end of The Jubilee, to lower the noise floor and prevent any

audible hum. As one would expect, the outer jacket is made of halogen-free Hulliflex, while the connectors are 24-carat gold-plated.

The review sample arrived brand new, so I let it run in the system for a good week before taking it at all seriously in the listening stakes. Even so, this is an interlink that sounds promising from the very start, and only gets better from there. Perhaps most notable is the very deep bass extension, which sometimes sounds as if it's added an octave to the delivery. Not only that, but it's tautly expressed, with no sign of flab or drag.

Equally heartening is an ability to open up the music, allowing it to roam an expansive soundstage, and showing off a convincing propensity for three-dimensional imaging.

The result remains integrated and cohesive, with an almost intoxicating thrust of realism. And no, there's never any sign of harshness - The Jubilee is a smooth sonic operator.

Only the price counts against The Jubilee. It's by no means the most expensive RCA-terminated interlink on the market, but anything in excess of 1000 Rand is in serious audiophile territory. On the other hand, its performance is certainly in the upper league, warranting what is likely to be a worthwhile investment.

**Deon Schoeman**

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#### VERDICT

A facelift and upgrade to VDH's stalwart D - 102 Mk III transforms this interlink from good to great - at a price...

#### PRICE

1800 Rand

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