

# Dynamique Audio Halo 2

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Dynamique Audio, a small British cable manufactory, is based on the skills and ideas of founder Daniel Hassany. For a small company, you will find all kinds of cabling in its production program, as well as quite a few performance levels (series). The brand also thinks of lovers of headphone listening - the highest model in the range, Halo 2, which underwent a "renovation" in 2020, has recently been added to the editorial office.

When you unpack the cable from the neat black box, you will certainly be surprised by the thickness and robustness of the construction. The cable is in a nice woven braid, between the connector and the damping link it is light, towards the shells each branch is noticeably thinner and darker. The connectors are really massive at both ends – the sample had 3.5 mm jacks on the headphone side (huge, metal, and very trustworthy) and a 6.3 mm Neutrik on the input side. The connectors and their connections are "immortal". You can then choose the connectors according to your headphones.

Despite the thickness and weight (which, by the way, is a bit uncomfortable, you can often feel the mass pulling your chin to your chest, especially after an hour or two – you will have to find the right fit), the cable is very easy to handle, flexible and flexible.



The point where the signal wire splits is enclosed by an anti-vibration tunnel in a metal and carbon fiber housing. Also, the outer sheath is not only an aesthetic matter, but also serves to absorb vibrations - the cable does not suffer from any microphones.

The design of the cable is based on the principles common to Dynamique Audio. It consists of eight silver conductors (99.99% purity) in a spiral geometry, which prevents the induction of unwanted interference from the air. Four conductors have a cross-section of 0.25 mm<sup>2</sup>, the other four 0.14 mm<sup>2</sup>. The wires are insulated in Teflon and have an air gap between them.



We tested the Halo 2 primarily on the RME ADI-2 DAC FS (but also the Chord Mojo and Apogee Groove) and the Focal Clear headphones, although it has also been used

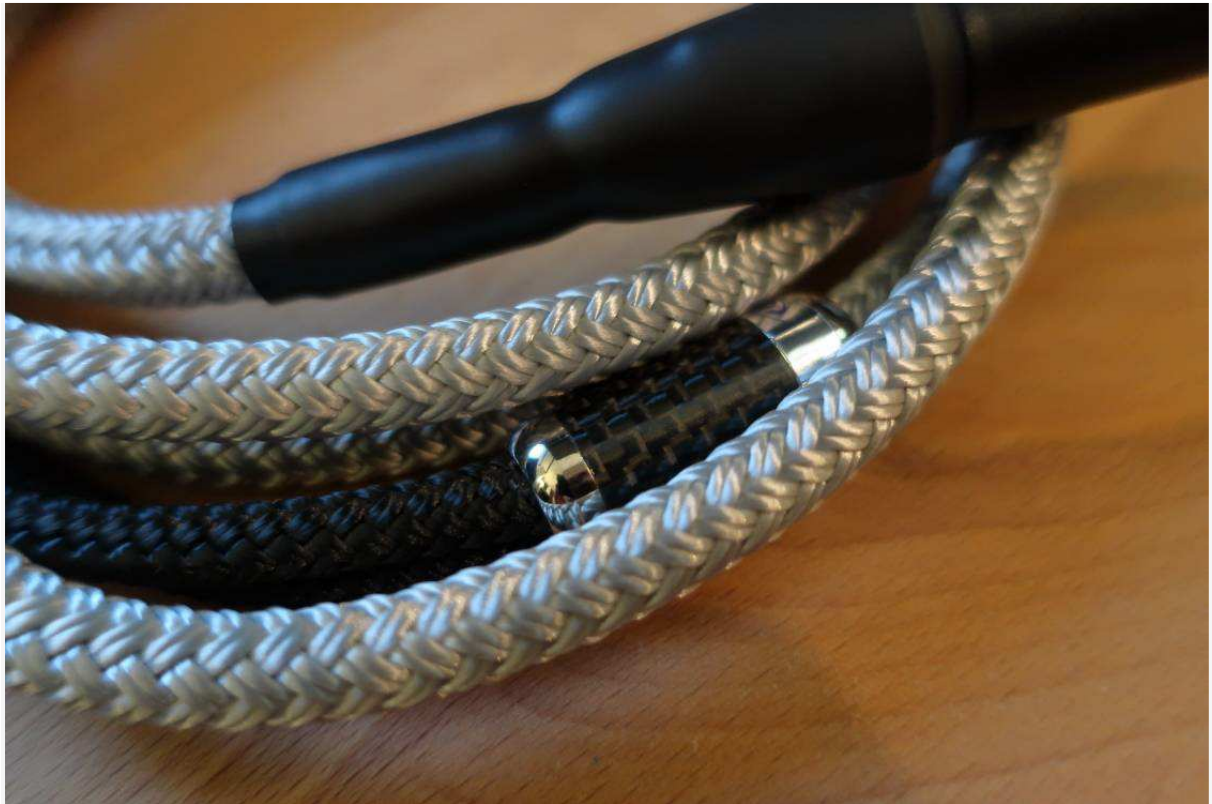


on the Focal Radiance, Beyerdynamic T1 (3G) and Beyerdynamic T5 (3G). We compared it with the cable supplied directly with the Clear (which offered a heavier, denser and slower sound) and with the Radiance, but also with the Cardas Clear (which pulled out the vocals more, but otherwise sounded more cautious). The source of the signal was Roon. Richly recorded bass guitar in Aneta Langerová's "White Day" ("Two Suns" | 2020 | Art Shock | AS002-2) was perfectly legible, tightened and actually non-dominant, yet emotionally present and very specific. The cable added to the assertiveness and tension of the reproduction, but in a correct, non-imposing way. Of all the examinees, it seemed the smoothest, unhurried, but with precise timing.



Robin Gibb's vocals in "Mother of Love" ("My favorite Christmas Carols" | 2006 | edel records | 0177622ERE) were significantly clearer compared to the "factory" cable, but thanks to this the borderline hardness and presentation of the recording stood out in places. Halo 2 emphasizes the analytical side of reproduction, every tiny detail in the midrange is as if carved in stone. Focal Clear sounded the most transparent and clear, as well as analytical we've ever heard with Halo 2 – and it's not the detail and clarity vulgar or technical, it's just very energetic and very clear.

Cymbal line in Diana Krall's "Abandoned Masquerade" ("The Girl in the Other Room" | 2004 | Verve | 0602498622469) was luxuriously drawn, perhaps a little brighter and more expressive in places (although a considerable part of it falls on the recording itself). The readability of each beat and its decay is perfect down to the slightest tremor that the headphones themselves can extract. The cymbal itself was the most plastic and specific of all the cables tested over Halo 2.



The great dynamics of the live album "Something Holy" by Alice Phoebe Lou ("Live at Funkhaus" | 2020 | AWAL | APL010) has lived up to the promise that the manufacturer accepts in its name. The dynamic differences are presented confidently, the energy is not throttled in any way, on the contrary, it flows freely and the sound is lively, kicked and more intense compared to factory cables, it simply has more power, more verve and drive.

From "Seven Steps to Heaven" from Miles Davis' album of the same name (2005 | Columbia | COL 519509 2) made the Halo 2 cable stand out simply more detail. The sound was definitely quite on the analytical side of the spectrum, for lovers of informativeness and subtlety it is the right nut, although along with a good portion of information you also get relatively uncompromising information about the shortcomings of the chain or recordings, and with a sharper sound of the amplifier (whether it's a Chord Mojo or RME ADI-2 DAC FS) you can be on the edge - but that's mainly because that Halo 2 just puts it all in the palm of your hand without trying to make the sound pretty, is just the way it is.



The differences in the perception of the space of the recordings were not of a "steamboat" size, yet there was a sense of the sounds and effects in Tangerine Dream's "Rising Runner Missed by Endless Sender" ("Cyclone" | 1995 | Virgin | 7243 8 40251 20) went on both sides and the music was more relaxed, there was no feeling of a central center of gravity between the ears. The effects and individual sounds have absolutely precisely localized paths, and the whole scene is clear and specific.

The rhythmic, swinging and cheerful "Swingin' Safari" by Bert Kaempfert ("Vinyl Classics Vol. 2" | 2014 | stereoplay | 03-14) clattered and pedaled, opened up even more with Halo 2, the drums were more punchy and the rhythm line had more punch. With such a good recording, everything falls into place and headphone listening already has the attributes of a real high-end, where nothing is missing and you want to listen on, on and on.





The British brand Dynamique Audio offers a very good price-performance ratio for its cables, and even though it approaches some design elements (compared to popular "big" brands) a bit unorthodox, you can always be sure that their solution is done honestly. This also applies to their top-of-the-line Halo 2 headphone signal cable, which simply lit up the reproduction of any connected headphones, bringing more detail, more air and – in keeping with the company's name – more dynamics. It's not cheap, and it's certainly not light (so watch out for your cervical spine), but if you appreciate the analyticity, concreteness, and liveliness of recordings, Halo 2 is a great partner to let your headset shine to its full potential.

**approx. CZK 17,000 / 1.5 m**

### **PROS**

- + excellent production quality
- + great detail enhancement
- + frequency balance
- + cleaner and brighter than more expensive competitors
- + great mechanical contact of connectors

### **CONS**

- its weight makes it uncomfortable