



聖 HIJIRI Hijiri HGP-15R

Hijiri is a new brand that supplements the range of exclusive products from Japanese Combak Corporation.

Hijiri is a lately established brand that is a part of Japanese Combak Corporation, especially renowned for high quality Harmonix cables. One might start to wonder why would they set up an entirely new brand of cables, rather than simply introduce a new range of Harmonix products. Perhaps it was because the leading constructor and owner, mister Kazuo Kiuchi, wanted to emphasize the uniqueness of the new cables, and how different they are from Harmonix. These are just my speculations, because this particular manufacturer remains silent when it comes to construction details – the catalogue doesn't even specify what is the main material used as a conductor in the cable, not to mention other technical minutiae, such as the design of positive and negative conductors or their geometry. The cables are made with the use of Resonance Control technology, which suggests that the goal was to reduce resonance to achieve possibly cleanest reproduction of signal fed from a source to an amplifier or preamplifier.

A glance at HGP-15R's appearance was enough to see that it is of perfect quality. Everything is precisely connected, and as a whole, it looks marvelous. Just like it is the case with Harmonix cables, everything is hand-crafted, maintaining the highest standards, which is what this Japanese manufacturer is famous for.

Combak Corporation is also known for the fact that the cables from Hijiri or Harmonix can be perceived as some kind of circulatory system, connecting particular organs, or components. It means they are designed to be as transparent as possible when connected to electrical equipment – which is why the manufacturer focuses on eliminating uncontrolled resonance. Anyway, Harmonix cables have always been renowned for something called a "black background", or the quality of being free from strain. I'm not surprised that these qualities are also a standard in the new Hijiri cables. HGP-15R is characterized by independent shielding system, which works to reduce radio interference, and has gold-plated fork terminals to be connected with the grounding pin of the device's housing.

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When it comes to esthetics, Hijiri is definitely likable, especially because along the thick-woven cotton sheath, it features beautifully crafted wooden blocks with brand logo and range name. The cable also has a direction marking, and it should be plugged to the system according to arrows.

Neutral

Generally speaking, a perfect interconnect is the one that doesn't constrict the system, especially a high-class one, and doesn't interfere with its sound, so it remains as neutral as possible. Hijiri is exactly like this, so you don't have to worry that it would have any influence on the character of sound – it doesn't add or change anything. You can hear absolute freedom and harmony. I think that this freedom and effortless reproduction of each note stems from the specific approach of the Japanese manufacturer, adopted already on the stage of designing the cables. Mister Kazuo Kiuchi has a global approach towards audio systems. From his point of view, a cable should not be perceived as a separate component, tuned only on the basis of strictly physical aspects, namely particular technical parameters they should possess. Cables take part in the process of signal transferring from one audio component to the other. What methodology did the Japanese employed when designing these cables remains a secret, but I'm sure that in this case, technical parameters aren't everything and what's really important is how they behave in a given system, which depends on a number of factors.

According to this principle, the designers must choose appropriate materials for insulation, conductors and probably adjust their diameter. All in all, it works, because with these latest cables from Combak Corporation, the sound was the best I've heard. And I've already had the occasion to test a few models from Harmonix and compare them to many other more or less renowned brands. Hijiri, however, charmed me with its specific style. Basically, it is about its phenomenal musicality achieved without interfering with transparency, timbre or warmth – Bach sounds exactly like he should, whereas Miles Davis' trumpet is like the real thing.

Of course among numerous fans of expensive audio sets, there are people who like extremely smooth and sweet, and slightly warmer sounds, and such people definitely will be pleased with Harmonix cables. Whereas when it comes to Hijiri, as the name suggests (in Japanese, the word Hijiri means maestro or a leader), it is supposed to constitute a sort of reference point for all the products manufactured so far by the Japanese. And there's something to it, because HGP-15R offers particularly neutral sound, with incredible dynamics, both on macro and micro level. As much as some people might accuse Harmonix of being too mild, they wouldn't say so about Hijiri. Obviously this somewhat mild quality doesn't stem from limited dynamics, but rather from a specific style of rhythm management, undisturbed, free from any coloration or exaggeration. Harmonix doesn't increase or decrease the pace, so it's not good for the systems that lack dynamics – it isn't supposed to interfere with the dynamics and impose its own character. When it comes to Hijiri, sure, the black background is still present, and the soundstage and individual dynamic accents are being drawn there, but here the dynamics is of a completely different character. It is especially audible in the low tones, because it is these frequencies that carry the greatest loads and it is here where attack on a macro level occurs on a massive scale. So there's perfect control, precise timing, comparable to record results on 100 m run, as well as undisturbed balance between the energies of individual sounds. You could say that a lot has changed as far as pace is concerned, because Hijiri instantaneously reacts to changes in rhythm. It is still not a cable that is meant to improve the dynamic aspect of the whole system,

but it is clearly audible that the dynamics is now shaped with greater emphasis on timing and sound intensity, especially on a macro scale. In a system with Accuphase E-470 amplifier and Naim CD5 XS player, so a fairly affordable set, yet based on devices that are outstanding in their price range, Hijiri introduced marvelous harmony to the sound. It's as if both these components have been placed arm to arm and disciplined when it comes to all dynamic nuances and timbre, both in the sense of warmth, and transparency.

HGP-15R definitely won't spoil anything about the sound of a well-matched system, quite the opposite – it will bring about what's best in some sound qualities. For many people these cables might prove to be perfect.

Good to know

Hijiri's offer is currently limited to HGP analogue interconnects, but Million series, to which they belong, is growing. You can assume so looking for instance into a catalogue, where there appeared a new power cable, which belongs to the absolute top of the best power cables from this Japanese manufacturer, namely X-DC Studio Master Million Maestro, offering studio-quality sound. The offer includes also another power cable branded by Hijiri – Nagomi X-DCH20 – its review will appear in the next issue of our magazine.

Summary

An absolutely outstanding product, in every aspect.

Verdict: Hijiri HGP-15R

★★★★★ For the most demanding users, looking for a perfect cherry on top of their meticulously selected systems



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