



# 讓它告訴你，甚麼叫「身歷聲」

## inakustik

### Referenz LS-4004 Air Pure Silver

#### 喇叭線

文 | 陳偉昌

**試**音當天，把一對inakustik Referenz LS-4004 Air Pure Silver喇叭線拿到大試音室接駁好之後，就任由系統唱它一個早上，來個充分熱身，自己就繼續忙碌去也。午餐後，正想開始試聽時，卻發現何森老總已在試音室播起音樂，好吧，那就等他先聽聽吧。

結果一等就等了差不多兩個小時，直至老總走出來，語帶興奮地說：「這對喇叭線真的很厲害！」印象中，得到他如此讚譽的音響產品並不多，就算身價高昂的，讓經驗老到的他覺得「厲害」實在少之又少。好吧，這回有趣了，要知道當音響評論資歷愈長，能夠挑起「興奮」心情的產品就隨之而遞減。

#### 玩盡AIR Helix結構

inakustik研發出AIR Helix技術，並以此發展出新旗艦系列，聲音表現與舊旗艦差別之大，實在令人驚訝。那些老是將「音響無進步」、「新不如舊」，又或是取笑廠方的AIR Helix架線器「兒戲」的人，應該要聽一聽。

AIR Helix技術，實質是利用廠方開發的特殊架線器，令每一股導體保持恆定距離以及特定幾何角度，利用結構去抵銷磁場干擾，令訊號傳輸得更快、更完整、更少遲滯。更重要的是，最大程度利用空氣為電介質，一種理想程度僅次於真空的「絕緣物」。

AIR Helix架線器暫時有三種直徑，最細的用於1204系列，2404採用大上一級的，最大的架線器就為4004所擁有。直徑大小決定了支架有多少個開孔，即是容許多少條導線穿過。

LS-4004 Air Pure Silver的設計與LS-4004 AIR如出一轍，同樣是AIR Helix結構、線身最外層的織網有「see through」效果（笑）。兩款線的內部同樣設有16條線芯，每條線芯以一條PE「芯」為中心，將24條純銀線在它的表面進行編織，以減少渦流效應，這就是inakustik的招牌技術，稱之為「Cross Link Super Speed」。而每條網狀導體表面都有一層極之薄的塗層，防止導體氧化。

喇叭線兩端選用了鍍銻碲銅插頭，與導體連接方式是壓接，並非焊接，避免焊錫與焊接工夫影響聲音表現。

這個插頭是兩段式設計，用家可因應需要，利用螺絲裝上BFA蕉插或叉插，無論哪一種插頭，都可以作接近90度屈曲，畢竟線身雖然充滿空間，但絕對稱不上輕巧，為免插頭因長期受力的折斷，所以出現了現時這種設計。

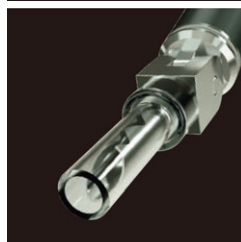
值得一提的是它的叉插設計，中央留有空隙，當用家將它到接線柱，收緊之後，這道空隙令叉插有一定彈性，從而緊貼接線柱。

## 追求「終極」

同樣是LS-4004，兩者分別其實顯而易見，那就是「AIR」的導體是純銅，「AIR PURE SILVER」就改用高純度銀。線身最外層那織網，亦以黑色代表純銅，白色則是純銀。

廠方表示，這種純銀的傳導效能為61.35 S/m，效率比純銅高6%，成本卻高出100倍！

成本高企，LS-4004 Air Pure Silver自然價值不菲，自問口袋不夠深厚的，廠方亦提供了LS-2404 Air Pure Silver這個選擇，導體股數減半，身價相對上低一點。只不過，假如你想追求極致，就實在不應退而求其次！而且，LS-4004 Air Pure Silver的確是有實力又有品味，對於喜歡原音樂器的發燒友來說，更有致命吸引力。





## 品味，有品味

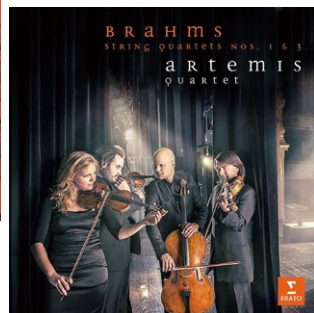
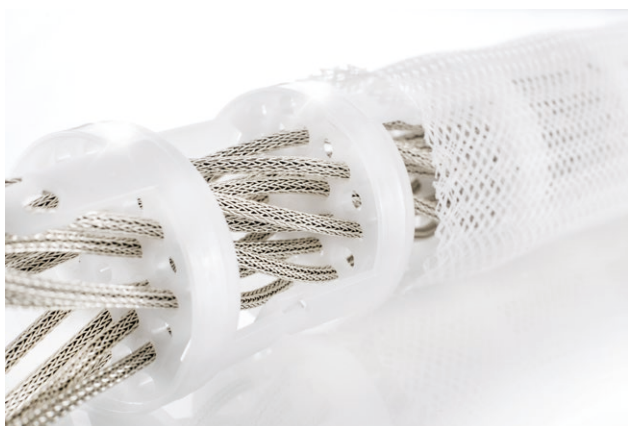
inakustik Referenz LS-4004 Air Pure Silver喇叭線於我們大試音室的拍檔包括Accustic Art Drive II、Tube-DAC II Mk2分體式CD組合、；Grimm Audio CC1時鐘、Accuphase C-3850、P-7300前後級；B&W 802 D3揚聲器。線材則有Burmester Power Cord（CD轉盤）、Analysis Plus Power Oval 2 Mk2電源線（DAC、時鐘）、Analysis Plus Silver Apex電源線（前級）、Analysis Plus Ultimate Power Oval 電源線（後級）、Analysis Plus Silver Apex XLR訊號線（DAC去前級）。

inakustik Referenz LS-4004 Air Pure Silver喇叭線的個性非常明顯，它不是着重音效的類型，也不會老是告訴你它是甚麼導體，聲音非常寬鬆又平均，音色沒有偏頗，只是淡化了Accuphase的金黃色澤與濃郁中、低音，將三頻平均地分配，非常自然，而且寬鬆。並不是一開聲就會令你「嘩」出來那種喇叭線，它的品味是需要細味才會令人感動。

由於它的個性寬厚溫和，不是拳拳到肉、力大無窮、鼓棍扑頭的筋肉人，低音層次變化多、線性、起伏完整，毫不兇狠，因此電子音樂、搖滾樂算不上是它的強項，真正長處是重播原音樂器，還原度之高實在令人驚訝。

## 平均，平衡，從容

它的三頻極為平均，就算頻寬出色也好，也不會強調超高或超低，一切以自然、平衡為先。由於其背景實在安靜，大量聲音訊息得以浮現，但聽起來卻不會覺得煩躁。一如它梳理三頻比例一樣，將所有訊息都安排得當，沒有流失，只是排好次序，枝節只是輔助音樂推進，以及增加像真度，不是爭奪主角位置。



先後聽過兩張弦樂四重奏，分別為Quatuor Ébène的《Felix & Fanny Mendelssohn》、Artemis Quartet的《Brahms: String Quartets Nos. 1&3》。結像非常立體，這種立體感來自音像厚度，即是音像有前、有後，而且有漸變，接近球體，不是一塊平面或是一個柱體。而音像之間的距離清晰，本身定位亦明確，音像大小更是一比一，對比非常明確。再加上LS-4004 Air Pure Silver傾向在不減音場深度為前提下，把前緣稍為推前，更接近聆聽者，非常接近坐在室樂廳頭三排座位的所聽到效果。

音場向前延伸，會否帶來壓迫感？不會，一來，方才已提及它的聲音從容大器，不是強硬派；二來，音像不會移位，高、低音亦不會如「死光」一般直接射向你耳朵，反而更像滲透、擴散，情況就如坐在音樂廳頭幾排，就算是樂團非常親近也好，因為擴散得宜，所以不會覺得非常大聲，更不會難受；第三，這款喇叭線能夠充分還原錄音內的訊息，包括堂音，營造出剛剛所講，坐在音樂廳前排的感覺，直接聲、環境反射、樂器泛音一一齊全，帶來出色臨場感。



Stereo曾經被翻譯為「身歷聲」，但不是所有「立體聲」都立體，稱為「身歷聲」的亦不一定令你有所身歷其境的感覺，LS-4004 Air Pure Silver喇叭線卻有本事給你一種身歷其境的立體感，是真正的「身歷聲」。

## 質感與透明並存

臨場感是LS-4004 Air Pure Silver其中一項長處，本以為B&W 802 D3的結像與立體感已非常出色，擅於重現現場氣氛與定位，但原來它還有不少潛力未被發掘，立體感可以更上一層樓，配上這款喇叭線，才明白之前未曾榨盡揚聲器的實力。

這對喇叭線另一強項，是能夠同時展現到優秀質感與透明度，而且色彩豐富。你可以清楚聽到大提琴的琴弦直徑、餘震、弓法，又似是透視琴腔那般，聽到各種共鳴變化，而各種聲音都有充足分量，既不沉重又絕不輕盈，恰到好處地讓你聽清當中變化與質感。更重要還是兩種似

乎是對立的元素，融合得不着痕跡，一切都非常自然、像真。

因為三頻平衡，所以不會偏向濃厚或飄逸，光、影並存，活潑得來又不失禮貌，無論開心、傷心或是更複雜的音樂情感也好，都可以一一表達得當。

它雖然是純銀喇叭線，不過就算你知道它是銀線，也不會聽到任何以往那些銀線的缺點，首先LS-4004 Air Pure Silver的平衡度理想，沒有偏頗；然後高音既不會偏多，亦不帶硬朗，更不會苛刻，在不減少訊息量的前提下，有本事安排得整體、悅耳，不靠減少細節就達成細緻聽感；聲音不是一味光猛，是光影並存，比例近乎一比一。

如此出色的調聲品味，在強調誇張個性的頂尖旗艦價格帶內，實屬難能可貴。

總代理：新和偉音響有限公司

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## **Inakustik Referenz LS-4004 Air Pure Silver**

### **Let it tell you what "Stereo" is**

Sam Ho, Chief Editor of Hi-Fi Review, spoke out excitedly, “These speaker cables are really amazing!” Rarely can one hear such comment from an experienced audio critic.

### **AIR Helix structure fully exploited**

Inakustik developed AIR Helix technology as a new flagship series. It is surprising that there is a huge difference in performance between the old flagship and the new one. Some people always say "Hi Fi cannot be improved anymore", "New technology cannot surpass the old one". Or, somebody will dismiss the new Inakustik AIR Helix line-up as "kidding", “toy’ or “childish”.

Inakustik has developed AIR Helix technology using some special wiring frame to maintain a constant distance and a specific geometry among conductor wires. This special structure can offset the magnetic field interference so that signal transmission can be faster, more integrated and with less delay. What is more important is to use air as a dielectric, an ideal insulator only next to vacuum.

There are temporarily three different diameters of wiring frame for the AIR Helix. The smallest, the medium and the largest ones are applied on Series 1204, 2404 and 4004 respectively. The number of holes made are determined by the diameter of the frame. The same number of conductor wires can be put through the holes.

The design of the LS-4004 Air Pure Silver is identical to LS-4004 AIR. Both of them use "AIR Helix" configuration. It is easy to “see through” the structure of the cable. Each of the both LS4004 consists of 16 cores, each having a “PE” as the centre core. Then 24 pure silver wires are woven on its surface to reduce eddy current. This technology is called "Cross Link Super Speed", which is the signature technology of Inakustik. The surface of each meshed conduction wire has a very thin coating to prevent oxidation.

The ends of the speaker cable are terminated with rhodium-plated copper plugs. Since soldering or welding can affect sonic performance, crimping termination is preferred.

The cable terminal is a flexible design enabling the use of either BFA banana plugs or spade lugs by screwing. No matter which one you use, it can be bent to a maximum of 90 degrees. Although the cable is full of space, it is not light in weight. The bendable terminals can avoid breakage under a long-term stress.



It is remarkable that the spade lug is designed to have a gap in the central part. When the user tightens it to the binding post, the gap can make the spade terminal elastic. This provides a more secured connection between the post and the fork firmer.

### **Pursuit of "the ultimate"**

Sharing the same model name LS-4004, the difference between the "Air" and "Air Pure Silver" is apparent. "AIR" is made of pure copper, and "AIR PURE SILVER" is made of high-purity silver. The copper version is covered with black jacket while the silver version is covered with white jacket.

According to information of the manufacturer, the conductivity of this sterling silver is 61.35 S/m, and it is 6% higher than pure copper. However, the cost of silver is 100 times that of copper!

The high production cost of the LS-4004 Air Pure Silver certainly makes it extremely expensive. Considering this, Inakustik also offers LS-2404 Air Pure Silver as an "economical" option. The quantity of conductors is halved to reduce the price level. However, If you are chasing the ultimate sound effect, the "economical" version is not your right choice! Moreover, the LS-4004 Air Pure Silver possesses strength and taste in music to attract audiophiles who like truthful music reproduction.

### **Sensation**

The complete system for evaluating Inakustik Referenz LS-4004 Air Pure Silver speaker cable in Hi Fi Review's studio comprises:

Accustic Art Drive II,

Tube-DAC II Mk2 split CD combination;

Grimm Audio CC1 clock,

Accuphase C-3850, P-7300 (Pre-amp and Power-Amp);

B&W 802 D3 speakers.

Cables Wires include Burmester Power Cord (CD turntable),

Analysis Plus Power Oval 2 Mk2 power cord (DAC, clock),

Analysis Plus Silver Apex power cord (preamp),

Analysis Plus Ultimate Power Oval power cord (poweamp),

Analysis Plus Silver Apex XLR signal line (DAC to preamp).

The character of Inakustik Referenz LS-4004 Air Pure Silver speaker cable is easy to define. It is not the type to emphasize or strengthen the sound effect. You do not feel that the cable is silver-made. The sound is very smooth and balanced and unbiased. It can diminish the rich mid and lower range of the typical Accuphase's "golden" signature tone. It delivers a balanced full frequency range. It is so natural and smooth.

It is not the kind of speaker cables to shock you on first hearing. But, you need to take some time to feel how amazing it is.

The speaker cable is so warm and gentle. It is not like a muscle man who holds drum sticks and hits the drum relentlessly. The bass is well defined, linear and dynamic, yet without sounding fierce. Playing electronic or rock music is not where its strength lies. It is able to reproduce the timbre of musical instruments. The outcome is really amazing.

### **Even, balanced, and easy**

Its entire audio spectrum is well balanced. Even with an exceptional, wide frequency bandwidth, it does not emphasize the frequency extremes. The key point must be everything comes natural and balanced. The background is so quiet that you can hear plenty of details without annoyance. Like handling the full frequency range, musical information is properly conveyed without loss. Musical notes are delivered to you in right order. The details only help music flow and make the sound more truthful. It also enhances the level of realism.

I have listened to two string quartets on CD - "Felix & Fanny Mendelssohn" by Quixor Ébène's and "Brahms String Quartets Nos. 1 & 3" by Artemis Quartet. Images are sharp. The three-dimensionality derives from the thickness of the whole soundstage. The images are projected from behind to the front of the speakers, almost becoming spherical. You can feel the size of the whole soundstage. Distances among all images are extreme clear, and in 1:1 proportion, with very clear contrast. In addition, without sacrificing stage depth, LS-4004 Air Pure Silver tends to project the images slightly forward of the speakers. It becomes closer to the listeners. It seems very close to the audience in the first three rows of a concert hall.

Do you think the listeners feel oppressed if the soundstage extends a bit forward of the speakers? The answer is "No". Firstly, as mentioned before, the sound is smooth without coarseness. Secondly, images are steady without drifting. Treble and bass are not like a laser beam shooting at your ears, but sound permeates the air and disperses to your ears, as if you were sitting at the front rows in a concert hall. Even if the orchestra is very close to you, it will not sound very loud and uncomfortable with appropriate dispersion. Thirdly, this speaker cable can completely retrieve information and details as recorded, including hall ambience, recreating the sense of being at the front rows of the concert hall. Direct sound, reflections and overtones of musical instruments together deliver an outstanding feeling of presence.

Stereo was once translated as "immersive sound", but not everything said to be "stereophony" will provide you with a feeling of presence. The LS-4004 Air Pure Silver speaker cable enables you to feel what "Stereo" really means.

## **Texture and transparency**

The feeling of presence is one of the strengths of the LS-4004 Air Pure Silver. I thought that the imaging and three-dimensionality of the B&W 802 D3 was remarkable in its ability to reproduce the atmosphere and performer localization in the recording venue. However, before using this cable, the B&W 802 D3 has not performed to its full potential. The sense of "being there" can be further improved. B&W 802 D3 can now be fully exploited by using this speaker cable.

The speaker cable reveals both exceptional texture and transparency, besides colourfulness. You can clearly feel the size of strings, quivering, and bowing of the cello, as if you could look through the cello. You can hear all variations in the resonance. There is sufficient sound information which is neither too heavy nor too light, just good enough to let you hear the subtleties and texture of the music. More importantly, the two seemingly controversial elements fuses, yet without traces. Everything sounds natural and realistic.

Thanks to the well balanced frequency range, the cable neither sounds overly rich nor light. Light and shade exist at the same time. It is a lively yet controlled sound. Emotions, whether happy, sad or more complex, are properly expressed.

Although the speaker cable is made of pure silver, you cannot hear any previous shortcomings of silver. Firstly, the LS-4004 Air Pure Silver exhibits well-balanced sound quality without bias. There is no excessive treble. It is not tough and harsh. The overall sound is pleasing to the ear without sacrificing the amount of information. There is no need to reduce any details to achieve a delicate feeling. The sound is not overly bright, allowing light and shade to live with each other. The proportion is almost 1:1.

Despite being a product bearing a top-notch flagship price tag that emphasizes exaggerated character, the superb sound quality delivered by the LS-4004 Air Pure Silver is invaluable.