

Review of VDH The Inspiration
by Jaap Veenstra, 07/2022 on:



Megatest speaker cables

real measurements, samples and blind test!



Intro

We can say without a doubt that this test of speaker cables is the most intensive test Alpha Audio has done to date. We have invested a tremendous amount of time and energy in this comparative test. We have also acquired two new, beautiful measuring devices to carry out this test. And all this to determine once and for all if there is a relationship to be made between measuring and listening. Whether we succeeded you can read in this mass test of no less than twelve speaker cables :

AudioQuest Type 9
Chord Company Epic XL
Driade Flow
JvG M.L Reference
Ricable Dedalus Elite
Supra Sword
Transparent Plus
Van den Hul - The Inspiration
MIT EVO Three
Shunyata Venom X
Standard Cable - 0.75mm²

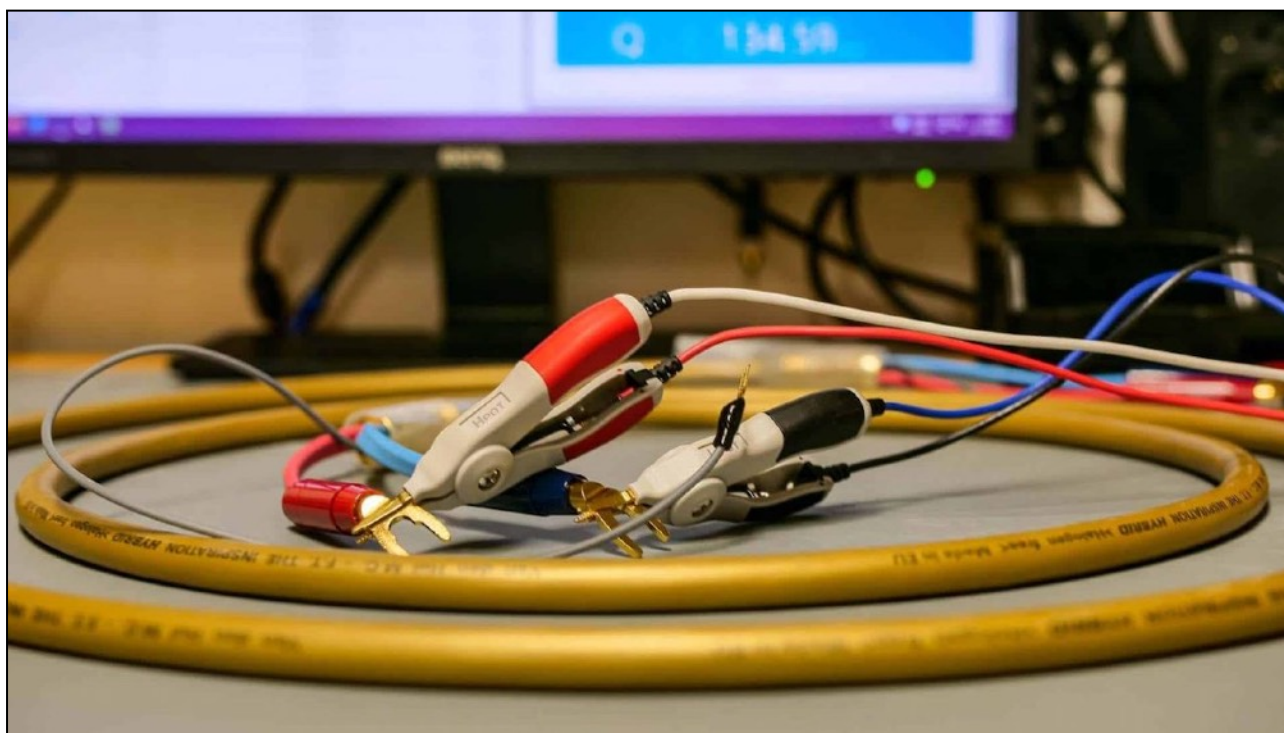
Van den Hul - The Inspiration



Another Dutch brand. And what a brand! Van den Hul. We received the Inspiration Hybrid. A cable that consists of four wires per side. 4 x 14 AWG. If we have it right, they are silver-plated copper/tin wires that are twisted around a ground wire. Quad Star, in other words.

The ground wire is for speakers with a ground on the filter. There are not many of those, but we have found that connecting the ground to the amplifier ground also works. This is how we measured the noise in the end.

The Van den Hul Inspiration Hybrid measures remarkably. The impedance is incredibly low. And very flat. Therefore, the impedance phase is also very smooth. Inductance is also very low. Capacitance measures average. Resistance also. All in all, the cable comes across very well balanced in the measurements.



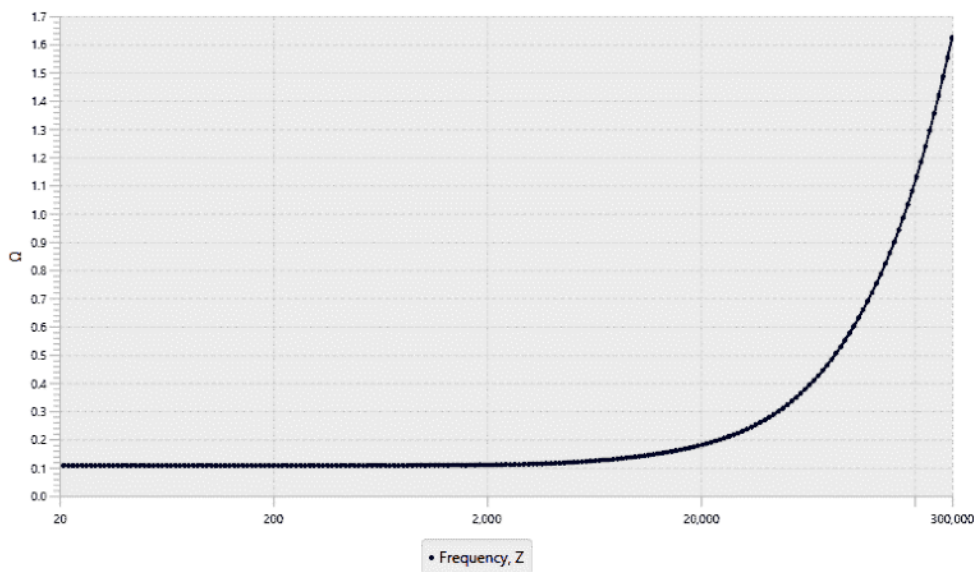
What is weird is that the conductivity is low. That will have to do with the 'hybrid' conductors. Shielding is particularly well arranged in this cable. We see – as with Audioquest – actually nothing happens. In short: you can put them next to adapters with confidence.

The square wave measurement is good. We see a slight rounding at the beginning. But that's all. As mentioned, a cable that seems to be very well balanced. A cable with a clear philosophy.

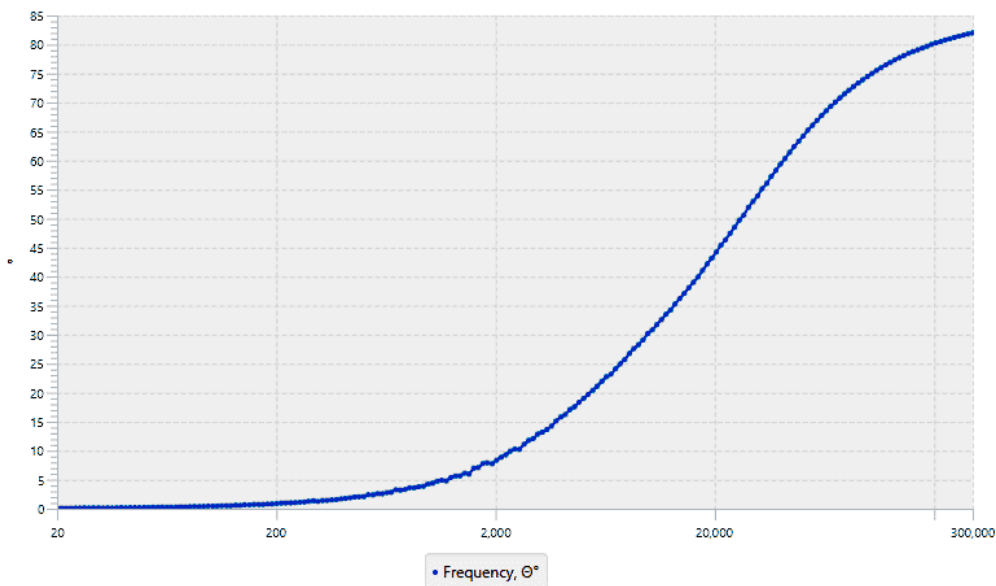
Next, when we start looking at the response, it seems at first to be off-putting. And it is a little bit, but less than you might initially think. While the Van den Hul is not as flat as the Shunyata and, for example, Transparent, it fits pretty well over the rest of the field if you move the line a bit up. And if we look at the bass and especially the treble response, it's much better than the rest and that must be due to the very flat impedance.

You can see measurements on the frequency response in the last overview of this article.

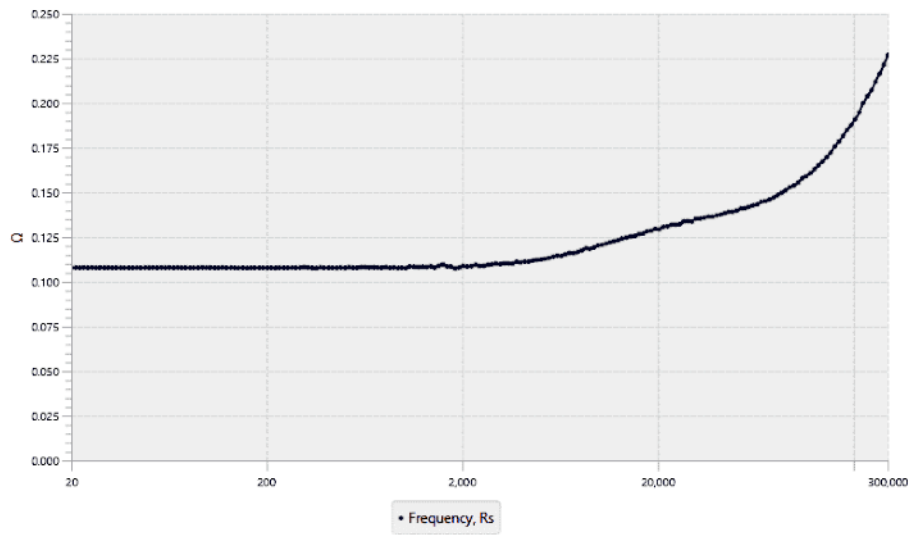
Measurements Van den Hul Inspiration Hybrid



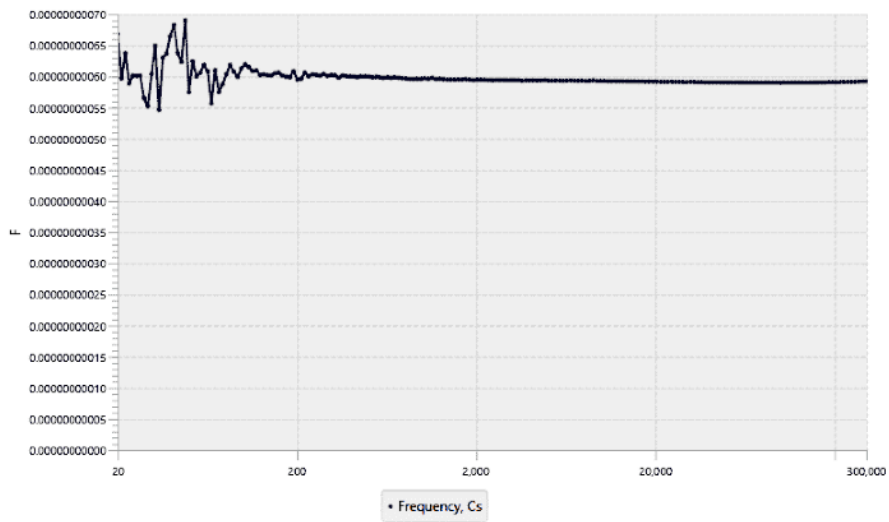
Impedance



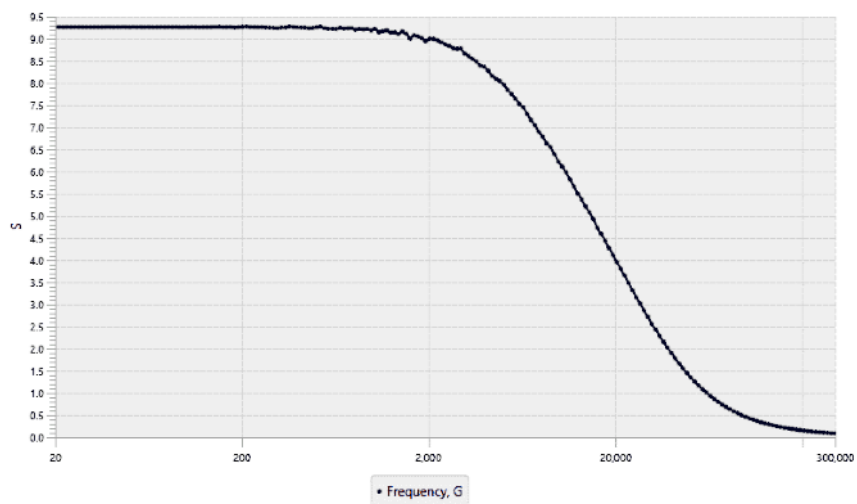
Impedance phase



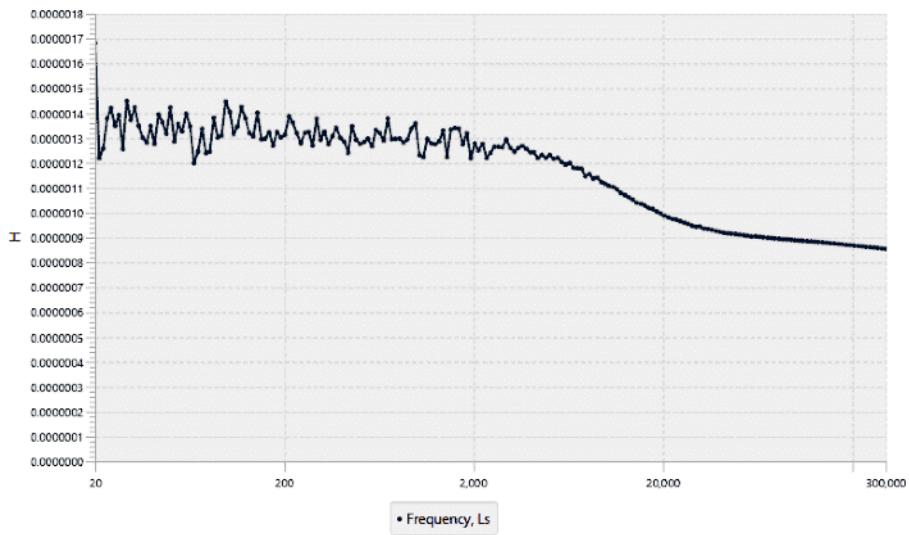
Resistance



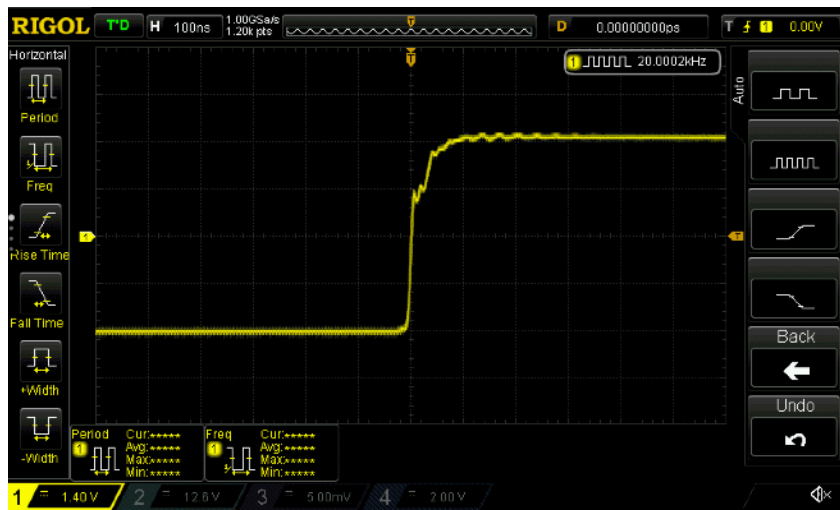
Capacity



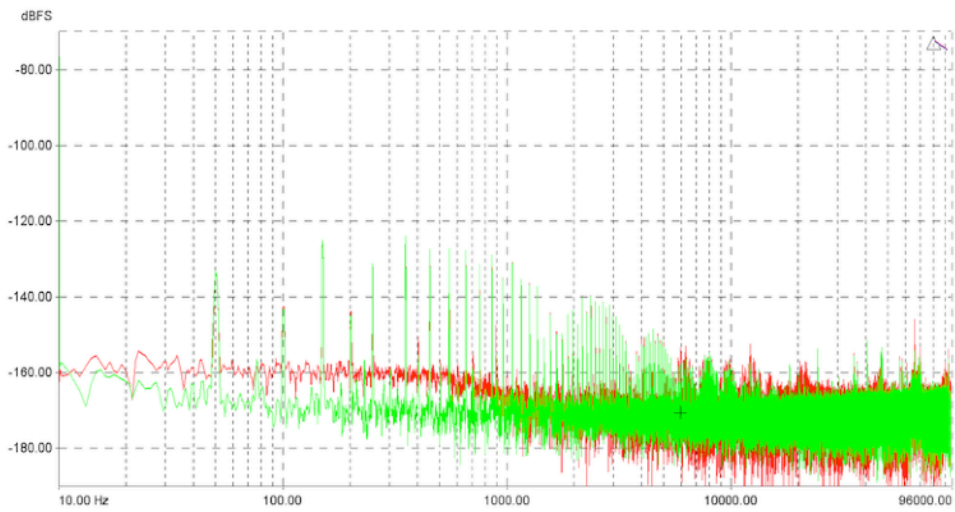
Conductance



Induction



Blockwave



Noise 4Ω dummy green (no noise) red (noise)

The sound

Van den Hul is number 11 on our [live stream](#) list. After the John van Gent and before the Supra. It is – like the Audioquest and Shunyata – one of the cables on your author’s top-3 list. Purely based on the measurements. And this one comes back in Yung’s top-3. Not Martijn’s... unfortunately.

Yung is drawn into the music with this Van den Hul. “The balance between the instruments is very right,” he writes. “It’s detailed. And the ‘human beatbox’ has real kick”. Yung compares it to a studio sound. Very rich in resolution and a tight stereo image.

Martijn is a little less enthusiastic. He misses some calmness. It plays very detail rich and with lots of micro detail, but the overall picture is a bit too ‘restless’ for his taste.

Two pairs of ears, two wishes, two opinions, shall we say. Fact is: this cable measures well and – according to your author, who then casts the third vote – sounds good. Different from the others? Yes... there is a bit more warmth in the sub- and mid-bass, and more high extension, which brings more air. But at the end of the line, very nice.

The Top 3 cables per author

Yung (based on listening)	Martijn (based on listening)	Jaap (based on measurements)
Van Den Hul	MIT	Van Den Hul
Shunyata	Shunyata	Shunyata
Driade	Audioquest	Audioquest

