



21 Silver Series Session Grade instrument cable



The Silver Series range comprises 3 unbalanced instrument cables engineered to have three specific capacitances. They are primarily for use for guitar and bass guitar to amplifier applications. The construction of these cables utilises a no compromise approach to materials and electrical characteristics; consequently flexibility is not a priority and these cables are aimed at recording rather than live performance.

The range comprises the following cables:

- Lo-Cap 55: 55 p/F per metre. Low capacitance figure gives low high frequency roll off
- Flat-Cap 90: 90 p/F per metre. Mid range capacitance figure gives average high frequency roll off
- Hi-Cap 125: 125 p/F per metre. Higher capacitance figure gives more high frequency roll off

Notes

- Within this range of cables capacitance is being used to produce different high frequency roll offs which affects the sound of the source instrument at its destination amplifier. Given the relatively low output level of a passive guitar pickup the cable can act as a high frequency roll off filter.
- The exaggerated capacitive effects of these cables are only relevant with the comparatively low output level of passive guitar pick ups – the use of high output level active pickups will reduce the difference between these three cables.
- Overall capacitive effects will of course change over distance; a 10m Lo-Cap 55 cable would have a total capacitance of 550 pF as would a 4.4 metre Hi-Cap 125. Shorter lengths (up to 5 metres) are recommended for these cables but where a longer run is required a lower capacitance cable should be considered for use.

silver series

Mechanical specification

		Lo-Cap 55	Flat-Cap 90	Hi-Cap 125
Conductor	Material	Bare silver plated ultra pure oxygen free copper wire		
	Size	0.49mm ²	0.29mm ²	0.63mm ²
	Stranding	7 x 9 x 0.10mm	37 x 0.10mm	50 x 0.127mm
Insulation	Material	Foamed Polyethylene		
	Diameter	6.00mm	2.55mm	2.70mm
Screen 1	Type	Conductive thermoplastic		
	Average thickness	0.30mm	0.30mm	0.30mm
Screen 2	Type	Bare silver plated ultra pure oxygen free copper wire		
	Stranding	24x10x0.10mm	16x8x0.12mm	16x8x0.12mm
Jacket	Material	Flexible clear PVC		
	Average thickness	0.75mm	1.20mm	1.10mm
	Overall diameter	8.50mm	6.00mm	6.00mm

Physical properties unaged

Jacket (at 60°C)	Tensile strength	>8N/mm ²		
	Elongation	>250%		
	Heat shock test	120 °C x 1 hour – no cracks		
	Test voltage	1000 Vdc x 1 minute OK		

Electrical characteristics

Resistance	Conductor - Ohm/Km	36	62	27
	Insulation - M Ohm/Km	>5000	>5000	>5000
Capacitance	Core to shield pF/m	55	90	125

Characteristics & description

Stock code	Description	Weight Kg/km	Reel length
268-900-055	Van Damme Silver Series Session Grade Lo-Cap 55	90	100m
268-902-090	Van Damme Silver Series Session Grade Flat-Cap 90	60	100m
268-904-125	Van Damme Silver Series Session Grade Hi-Cap 125	60	100m

QUICKTEST
MISCELLANEOUS

Van Damme Silver Series Lo-Cap 55 cable

A cable with claims that are both measurable and audible

“Our sound better than everyone else’s!” So says every cable manufacturer, presenting a wood-for-the-trees situation for us punters. Well then here’s a thing – a cable that explains why that sound is different, not necessarily ‘better’.

There are two burning issues when it comes to guitar cables. The first is minimising extraneous noise (the vast majority of quality cables have that sorted) and the second is audio integrity, which is the biggest bone of contention.

To the point: Van Damme’s Lo-Cap 55 cable delivers 55p/F per metre, which is low in capacitance terms, and this therefore has minimal effect on high-end roll-off. Additionally,

there are Flat-Cap and Hi-Cap versions available.

In Use

If your guitar has regular single coils or humbuckers (especially vintage types, but not active pickups) the Lo-Cap 55 cable has a discernible tonal effect. We A/B’d it with regular George L’s, Planet Waves and Whirlwind leads of the same length using the new Fender Hot Rod Deluxe (reviewed on p104). Trebles are noticeably clearer and stronger – partly what we expected – but the more surprising revelation is the clearer, more solid bass. A simple difference, and plain to hear in studio conditions.

Verdict

With foamed polyethelene insulation, bare silver-plated pure oxygen-free copper wire for the conductor and second screen, this is a classy cable. The Lo-Cap 55 will be overkill in the sonic melee of pub and

club gigs, especially if you have a pedalboard. However, if you’re recording with top-quality gear and you want the most information to get from your guitar to your amp, with minimal colouration and signal degradation (not everybody does), this cable comes very highly recommended. **[MT]**

The Bottom Line

We like: Does what it says it does: clear tone; great quality
We dislike: Only the price, but they are handmade in the UK

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Guitarist CHOICE

“My guitar sound was warm, organic and sparkling in the top end”...

Martin ‘ACE’ Kent – Skunk Anansie

“Last 2 albums recorded using Silver Series”

Gary Moore

“Permanent fixture in Tony’s studio”

Tony Iommi – Black Sabbath

“It’s always in the kit wherever we go”

Dan Dearnley – Eric Clapton’s guitar tech