

VAN DEN HUL S-VHS-2-75

The first video cable from van den Hul aims to be a cut above the rest

Van den Hul is a well-known name in hi-fi circles. The company has been making high-quality interconnects, phono cartridges and speaker cables since its foundation in 1980, but it has taken until now for the

Netherlands-based outfit to venture into the increasingly popular world of home cinema. The launch of the S-VHS-2-75, therefore, marks a new era in the company's history. But how does its first offering fare?

This is an S-Video cable, which provides one of the three or four ways of getting an image from a DVD player or other S-Video source onto a TV or monitor. But it's not the best way. Most people acknowledge that RGB output via Scart or component video options gives a better picture, but then not everyone has a DVD player with these types of outputs, and S-Video is, for now, the most common of the higher quality means of transferring an image.

This issue aside, the van den Hul is a very well constructed cable: it uses silver coated crystal OFC conductors, heavyweight screening to prevent external interference, and it has gold plated connectors. The internal coaxial lines, which split the image signal into colour information (chrominance) and brightness (luminance), are designed to minimise signal delay differences, so that colour and brightness information is perfectly aligned. On paper at least, this should be a solid choice of S-Video cable for mid- to high-end installations.

And when the cable is put to the test, it does its job admirably. We used two cables in our testing: a 1 m run from DVD player to Denon AVC-A11SR amplifier, and a 3m run from amp to TV using the amp's internal video loop. Using the colourful and vibrant *Moulin Rouge* and the Superbit DVD of *Fifth Element* as test discs, we were bowled over by the sharpness and precision afforded by this cable, compared to the cheaper cable previously installed. Likewise, colours were more vivid, without suffering bleed or smearing, and three-dimensionality was increased. As we've already suggested, a good RGB Scart link is better, but if you use S-Video then these cables come as a recommended upgrade.



KEY FEATURES

- Silver coated matched crystal OFC conductors
- Heavyweight multiple OFC screening
- Two low-loss coaxial 75 Ohm lines

- Covered in HULLIFLEX 4 jacket
- Gold plated four-pin connectors used

VERDICT VAN DEN HUL S-VHS-2-75

WHAT'S GOOD?

- High-quality construction
- Image clarity is increased
- Image depth improved

WHAT'S BAD?

- Long runs of this cable will prove to be expensive
- S-Video is not always best

PERFORMANCE



BUILD



VALUE FOR MONEY



OVERALL



An extremely high-quality cable for those needing S-Video, but at a high price compared to its rivals.