



Ryan Threat hails from Chicago, Illinois. Since early childhood his love for music was greatly influenced by the diversity of music that Chicago is known for, blues and jazz. Ryan is a talented jazz pianist and songwriter who has recorded his own music as well as played on projects of other artists.

Through Ryan's pursuit of music he became an avid hi-fi "nut", music hobbyist and audiophile. He worked part-time for a couple of dealers as well as a sales rep for a major speaker manufacturer for several years. That experience exposed him to a variety of audio components, hardware and software and honed his skills in the evaluation and set-up of audio systems. Over the years he has personally owned and put together several systems ranging in cost from \$5k to \$100k.

Mr. Threat currently resides in Dallas where he has parlayed his writing & audio sales experience into a budding career as a professional reviewer of audio equipment under the name Ryan's World.

Ryan Reviews: Clarus Crimson Balanced Audio Cables

When I first inserted the Clarus Crimson Balanced Audio interconnects (model CCB) in my system, the first thought that came to mind was "Wow, the sound is really open". Secondly, the clarity, honesty and transparency of the cable impressed me. I could hear absolutely no smearing of frequencies or individual notes. The CCB maintains the integrity of the recording. It adds nothing to it. It doesn't lie, hide, or glorify anything in the music. A wart is a wart. A beautiful note is a beautiful note. If it's in the recording this cable will reproduce it accurately.

For this review I used a Luxman D-05 CD player with my 200W amplifier and a pair of Focal 1038BE speakers. I wanted to get a feel for how the Clarus CCB would interact with my system components since I know their respective characters well.

A perfect example of this came while listening to one of my favorite jazz female artists Stacy Kent. On her album *The Lyric* (Blue Note/EMI Records, released 2011) track # 2 is titled "Corcovado". Halfway through the song her husband, Jim Tomlinson, starts playing a solo on the saxophone. You can hear the spit and air in his reed, when he stops and takes a breath before starting again and the air being "energized" around his instrument. At the end of the song he ends his solo with a series of breathy "puffs", his last note has faded and is no longer audible but you can still hear his tongue and lips lightly resonating though the mouthpiece.

Personally, I welcome this type of detail; the "ambient" and "inner detail" that enhances the music and illustrates the artistry of the performers. It makes the music sound more alive, more real. More importantly, it transports you to that time and place, to the event itself, and you "feel" the energy of the performance venue and share the stage with the artist. There are many cables on the market today that, even when placed in a high resolution system, are simply incapable of offering you this type of open window into the music. The Clarus CCB cable has the transparency, all that's needed to let you appreciate both the music and the artist.

I truly enjoyed my time with the Clarus Crimson Balanced Audio cables. In a highly resolved system such as mine, the Clarus cables allowed my system to better excel at what it already did well while taking away or detracting nothing from the sound. Everything opened up and became more dynamic, more energetic and life like, a more open view into the music that was both palpable and immensely enjoyable.

