



Cables Section

This month Tony Bolton looks at The Chord company cables

Thord Company was founded in 1985 by Sally Kennedy to satisfy the demand for high quality interconnect cables for use with Naim equipment. Two years later the first version of the Cobra interconnect was introduced, followed a few years after that by the original version of the Chameleon. The new versions of both these cables, alongside the new Crimson model are under review here.

As is my usual practice, I gave each cable 48 hours running in on a Blue Horizon Proburn cable burn in accelerator, before settling down to do some listening with the leads connecting the Leema Acoustics Antilla 2S Eco CD player to the matching Tucana II amplifier. I listened to each of the cables for a few hours before doing the comparative listening using the aria 'Celeste Aida', from Verdi's opera of the same name, as sung by Placido Domingo ('Domingo Favourites', Deutsche Grammophon 445 525-2) and the track 'Ja Vidi' by Christophe Goze from the album 'Chill Arabia III' (Bal De Lune records. LUNECD19). This being a fusion of Middle Eastern and contemporary Western beats and sounds.

H-FI WORLD

INTERCONNECT CABLES CHORD CRIMSON VEE 3

CHORD
CRIMSON VEE 3
INTERCONNECT
£55 FOR 1M



EXCELLENT - extremely capable

VALUE - keenly priced

VERDICT

A big sounding cable that will add a bit of zest to a flat sounding system.

FOR

- fast bass
- good imaging
- well projected mid-range

AGAINST

- slightly forward high frequencies

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The new Crimson cable has taken the place of the Chrysalis as the starting point in the Chord range. It uses two sets of multi-stranded oxygen free copper conductors, arranged in a twisted pair configuration and covered with a

dual layer shield. The ABS plug casing is new and covers gold plated contacts inside the RCA phono plug.

SOUND QUALITY

Starting with the Domingo piece, I was immediately struck by the impressive level of bass output for a

cable at this price point. Although not hugely deep, it gave an impression of weight and solidity that surprised me. Domingo's voice was quite well handled although there was a tendency to a slightly nasal quality to his voice.

Changing to 'Ja Vidi' I found that the opening drum beats were well described and the beat had a fair amount of get up and go to it. Mid range sounds had a strong presence although the tambourine had a slightly splashy quality to it.

CONCLUSION

Bearing in mind that this cable will be partnered with budget electronics, the tonal balance should add a bit of zest to the sound while retaining a good overall balance. It could be a little forward for some systems though.

