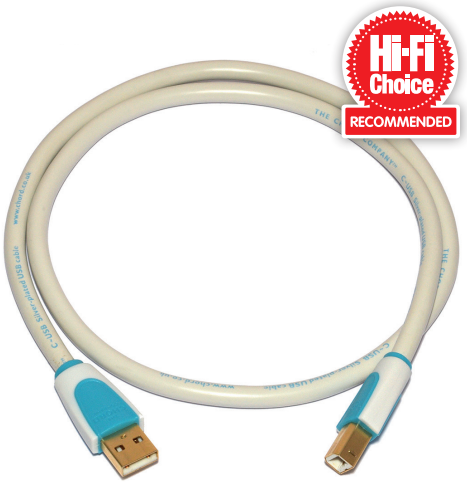
The Chord Company
C-USB interconnect cable



THIS YEAR, THE Chord Company has added a number of digital interconnects to its entry-level C-range, including this Type A-to-Type B USB cable, which has been specifically designed for audio applications.

If a poor-quality cable is used to connect a computer to a DAC, it can cause all sorts of effects that will interfere with the quality of the audio signal being transmitted. These can result in errors being generated in the digital signal, which the DAC has to correct. Although less important for computer applications, such as hooking up a printer to a PC, these errors can introduce jitter and other issues that degrade the audio signal. A good-quality audio USB cable should have excellent screening to keep out RFI along with high-quality plugs to ensure a decent connection.

The C-USB builds on the company's Silver Plus USB cable by improving the conductors and increasing the shield density. It features silver-plated oxygen-free copper conductors, which are insulated with a low-loss, gas-foamed polyethylene insulation.

Let's twist again

The internal configuration uses twisted-pair data conductors with dual-layer, high-frequency shielding. The cable is terminated with moulded plugs with gold-plated connectors.

I use the C-USB to connect a Windows PC to my Alpha Design Labs GT40a (*HFC* 399), which is acting as a DAC for playing music files on my computer through my hi-fi. When I play a hi-res 24/192 PCM file of The Locrian Ensemble of London playing the *Rondo* from Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, I notice audible improvements in terms of the accuracy of the instrument placement within the soundstage. As with other cables in Chord's impressive C-range, the C-USB looks and feels incredibly well made, and will ensure that your music file signals are handled with integrity for years to come. ***NR***

DETAILS

PRICE
£50 for 0.75m cable

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WEBSITE
chord.co.uk

OUR VERDICT
★★★★★