Choice EXTRAS

Chord CompanyClearway Power cable

INTENDED AS AN upgrade over the 'kettle lead' usually bundled with a system, the Clearway Power features a double foil shield – located under the outer jacket – designed to reduce the pick-up of high-frequency noise that is common within the home. The screening also reduces the possibility of any interaction with other nearby cables.

The Clearway Power contains three high-purity multi-strand copper conductors insulated with PVC, which has a high mechanical damping factor. The conductors are screened with a dual-foil screen and the cable is finished off with a high-density vibration damping outer jacket. Apart from UK 13A mains plug and 10A IEC high-specification connectors, it can also be supplied with a Schuko mains plug, 16A IEC or figure-of-eight connector. American

and Australian mains plugs are also available. The Clearway Power is supplied in 1m, 1.5m, 2m and 3m lengths, with custom sizes to order.

A kind of magic

Connecting the mains lead to the power supply of my preamp and phono stage in place of a standard mains lead, I start off auditioning with some big band jazz and a 45rpm LP of Lyn Stanley's *Novel Noel* album. Her rendition of *It's Magic* sounds very classy and the relaxed and sophisticated style of singing really comes through beautifully clearly on my system. The instrument focus and clarity are both excellent and the soundstage is expansive throughout.

Haydn's *Baryton Trios* performed by the Esterhazy Baryton Trio is a great contrast to the Lyn Stanley album. A baryton is a stringed instrument about the size of a cello that is fitted with six



or seven strings that can be bowed. It has a number of thin, metal strings running behind the fingerboard, which cannot be played but will resonate when the upper ones are bowed. The result is a unique sound that can be quite a challenge for an audio system to reproduce well, but here is handled perfectly with the Clearway Power cable installed. This is a great-value cable upgrade for any system. **NR**

PRICE £125 for 1m cable WEBSITE chord.co.uk

OUR VERDICT