



Chord Company Signature Super ARAY USB

HIGHLY COMMENDED
USB CABLE



Chord Company's Signature Super ARAY USB is the follow-up to the successful Signature Tuned ARAY from the mid-2010s. ARAY is an electro-mechanical tuning applied to the cable to enhance signal propagation. Alongside the Super ARAY conductor geometry, Signature USB features a complex shielded internal wiring configuration, with precision silver-plated twisted copper conductors.

By hybridising the layout this way, Chord Company maintains the 5V feed while minimising interference and crosstalk to the data conductors. This is taken further by separately shielded DATA conductors and a dual-layer HF shield arrangement. It also features a woven black PVC outer jacket and 'ChorAlloy' multi-metal plated terminations.

In our test, Alan Sircom felt the cable combined the poise of a ballerina with a

bloodhound's ability to track down the music. He said, "Signature Super ARAY is a USB cable in fine balance. It does everything you want of a good cable and none of the things you don't." Adding, "The information is all there, to the point where listeners would normally claim it borders on bright and forward sounding, yet it remains effortlessly easy on the ear."

He concluded the review by saying, "There's lots to like here. Signature Super ARAY could be the gateway drug into Chord Company cables, and it needs to be something more than a well-made cable in a nice presentation case. But, thanks to it sounding so good and realistic, yet never tiring or exaggerated, if this is your first cable from the brand, you might want Chord Company's Signature autographing your whole system."

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Chord Company PowerHAUS M6

WINNER
POWER/POWER BLOCK



Chord Company, best known for its speaker, interconnect, and mains cables, has been broadening its horizons of late. The PowerHAUS M6 mains distribution block is just one such development. In fact, Chord Company says PowerHAUS has been in the works since 2003.

One of the key considerations in mains distribution is the approach to addressing objectives such as grounding and noise suppression. Chord Company has already got that covered thanks to its proprietary ARAY technology, and ARAY works for the PowerHAUS M6 as well as it does for Chord Company's cables. It also uses isolated bus bars instead of star-wiring techniques for its earthing topology. This helps reduce the interaction of live and neutral feeds with the earth.

The effectiveness of the PowerHAUS M6 is evident in its impact on sound quality. With this distribution block in place, vocals become more present and clearer, instruments gain more articulation and depth, and overall musical performance becomes more complex and interesting. The block also enhances the relationship between different parts of the sound envelope, preserving attack, decay, sustain, and reverb more effectively.

In our test, Steve Dickinson said "Noise is clearly an important factor at play here – whether it's noise getting in from external sources via the live and neutral, or noise being shared around via the earth, but all the benefits of the PowerHaus M6 are ones I recognise from other work to reduce the insidious, parasitic effect of low-level noise within a system."

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