Chord Company
Clearway USB-C cable

A STEP-UP FROM Chord Company's budget-friendly range, the recently released Clearway USB-C cable is aimed at enthusiasts wishing to use phones, tablets and laptops as a music source for their audio equipment.

Some believe that digital interconnect cables won't affect sound quality as all they are required to do is to transfer a series of digital pulses from one piece of equipment to another. However, this is not the case. The Clearway USB-C cable is made from high-bandwidth, silver-plated oxygen-free conductors and is screened with a double-layer foil shielding and high-density braid to offer good protection from RF interference. The cable is terminated with a USB-C connector at one end and a choice of a USB-A, USB-B or USB-C at the other. All connectors have gold pins and are alloy sleeved for good plug shielding. The connectors also benefit from a non-compression strain relief system to maintain cable integrity. The cable is available in a range of different lengths from 0.5m to 3m and is finished in an elegant dark blue outer sheath.

Touch of class

For my listening tests, I opt for a USB-B-to-USB-C cable to connect a Samsung mobile phone to a Furutech ADL Stratos DAC and play an MP3 file of Matthew Halsall's recording of *Sending My Love* from his album of the same name. The performance is very classy and Halsall's trumpet is clear and bright without being harsh or edgy. The swinging flute and sax sections are crystal clear and the backing from piano, bass and drums is in perfect proportion to the solos.

I then remove my mobile phone and use the USB-C socket on my PC and play a 24-bit/192kHz WAV file of Vivaldi's *Concerto For Violin, Strings And Harpsichord RV386*, performed by Interpreti Veneziani. This piece really demonstrates the well-defined instrument placement within the soundstage. The overall clarity is fantastic and the performance has excellent realism and musicality.

This is a superb option for audio applications and it's really good to have a USB-C connector fitted to a high quality cable. ***NR***

DETAILS

PRICE
£140 for 1m

WEBSITE
chord.co.uk

OUR VERDICT
★★★★★

REPRINTED FROM Hi-Fi Choice FOR GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION