

Leema Acoustics

Reference 1 digital RCA cable



ALTHOUGH ANALOGUE AND digital interconnects look similar and are fitted with RCA connectors that resemble one another, they are designed for two very different purposes. Analogue cables need to protect their delicate signals from the effects of external interference, such as RFI. While also needing to keep out RFI, digital cables need to transmit binary data at very high frequencies and actually have more characteristics in common with video cables.

Jitter bug

The frequency response of the cable is required to be well in excess of 1MHz in order to preserve the digital waveform. Any degradation of this can result in jitter that the DAC then has to correct. Therefore, using a low-grade digital cable can result in poor spatial positioning of

instruments and other subtle effects that can influence the performance, making the sound less realistic.

The Reference 1 is the correct 75ohm impedance that is required to perfectly match my equipment and minimise unwanted signal reflections within the cable. It employs silver-plated copper (SPC) conductors, which are double shielded with Mylar foil and braided copper. The cable is finished off in an 8mm diameter outer PVC jacket with a blue protective mesh sleeve. At each end it is terminated with RCA plugs with gold-plated connections and all-metal bodies. Internally, the plugs are fitted with Teflon insulation.

I opt to use a PrimaLuna ProLogue Eight Mk 2 CD player as a source and connect the player's coaxial digital output to the coaxial digital input of a Cambridge Audio Stream Magic v2 (HFC 393) acting as an external DAC



with the Reference 1 cable. Playing a great recording of a *Concerto Grosso No. 10* in D major by Charles Avison, I am treated to a sound that is both musical and compelling. The double basses are well controlled while the top end remains clear and precise. The Reference 1 is a beautifully made digital coaxial cable that communicates music signals well. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE
£150 for a 1m cable

TELEPHONE
01938 559021

WEBSITE
leema-acoustics.com

OUR VERDICT

