

Leema Acoustics

Reference 1 digital optical cable

ONE OF THE most common problems with Toslink cables is that the plugs can be a poor fit in the sockets of the equipment, if they are not good quality. This can result in end connectors not lining up properly with the optoelectronic devices in the component, resulting in an intermittent loss of signal. Also, low-quality fibre-optic wire is often used in cheap cables and this can be lossy and also prone to spurious internal reflections. All of this will cause imperfections in the transmitted digital data that will result in jitter, which the DAC has to correct. So the use of a good-quality digital optical cable is as important as the use of high quality-copper interconnects.

Leema's Reference 1 digital optical cable uses a 6mm diameter fibre-optic cable, which is terminated in metal-barrelled Toslink connectors. The connectors feature a sprung body,

which gently pushes the end of the fibre core firmly into the receiving socket in order to ensure the best possible quality data transfer across the optical boundary. The cable is finished off in a dark blue PVC outer jacket, which in turn is fitted with a rugged blue mesh outer cover.

Plug and play

The Reference 1 cable is certainly beautifully made with high-quality components. Connecting it between a PrimaLuna ProLogue Eight Mk.2 CD player and the optical digital input of my Cambridge Audio Stream Magic 6 v2 (*HFC 393*) acting as an external DAC, I find the quality of the plugs is such that I have no problems plugging them into the equipment. Playing a CD of Vivaldi *Sonatas For Flute* Op.10

shows that there is no evidence of any dropouts and the music is reproduced with accuracy and clarity with no hint of edginess to the sound. In particular, the flute and the individual instruments comprising the *Basso Continuo* are all separately identifiable within the soundstage, meaning that this substantial Leema Acoustics cable comes highly recommended. **NR**



▶ DETAILS

PRICE
£175 for a 1m cable

TELEPHONE
01938 559021

WEBSITE
leema-acoustics.com

OUR VERDICT

