

Black Rhodium Prelude

TYPE Analogue interconnect cable

CONTACT ☎ 01332 342233 # www.blackrhodium.co.uk

This new interconnect is marketed partly on the strength of its low 'microphonic distortion'. Microphony in cables is not a new concern, but Black Rhodium claims to have reduced it to lower levels than usual thanks to some confidential technique. It's true that if this cable is connected to an amp input, with the other end left unconnected, and whacked, very little noise comes out – less than with plenty of (but not all) other cables we've tried, but as usual there's probably more to it than that. The use of PTFE insulation, silver-plated conductors and simple coaxial construction is a well-established formula for good cable performance, and the twisting together of the pair can only help reduce hum pickup. Highly flexible, it is terminated in good-quality phono plugs with a split centre pin for extra grip.



The sound of this cable is good in many different ways. The bass is strong, clear and tuneful, while there's no obvious sign of any tonal imbalance in the all-important midband. Perhaps if one is to be ultra-fussy, the 'presence' band (upper midrange) is lifted and the sound has a 'fast' character as a result, but this is really very mild. Treble is on the dry side, we felt, closing in the acoustic space around

instruments in the finest recordings, but on the whole we'd expect to pay more to improve on that. In line with this finding, detail stops just short of truly excellent, but imaging is precise and deep. **HFC**

Richard Black

VERDICT

CONCLUSION
This is a good all-rounder, happily compatible with a wide range of kit. Practical and sensibly priced.



Black Rhodium Harmony

TYPE Analogue interconnect

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From the outside, there's not much about this interconnect that marks it out as in any way different from the many (very many) competing models, at or near its price. Still, it's not like Black Rhodium to follow the horde even when designing to a budget and two features stand out about Harmony's construction. First, it's unscreened, with two identical conductors, insulated and twisted together before being sheathed together. Second, it uses silicone rubber insulation instead of the usual suspects, a long-time Black Rhodium favourite.

Unscreened interconnects may sound like a recipe for hum and interference, but in practice it's difficult to get this cable to pick up either. Twisting conductors together is often a more potent anti-hum measure than screening anyway, and when connecting any typical modern source to an amplifier, the chance of a problem is near zero. You'll also notice that the two conductors are twisted together (something first publicly recommended, we



believe, in these pages!) which theoretically worsens crosstalk. The extent is negligible, though, and is more than offset by the reduction in likelihood of picking up magnetically-induced hum as a bonus.

As a result of all this, sound is clear and notably agile, with bass that extends pretty well (if not truly seismically) and articulates admirably. Treble is extended, open and sweet with just the tiniest loss of ambience compared to expensive reference cables. Tonally, sound is

neutral apart from a hint of upper-bass lift, a common Black Rhodium characteristic that is easy to live with, and imaging is excellent in both width and depth. **HFC**

Richard Black

VERDICT

CONCLUSION
A fine all-rounder with a lively, detailed and pleasing sound: highly compatible and excellent value, too.

