



Nordost

Heimdall 2 Tonearm Cable+

WITH ALL THE tiny electrical signals coming from a phono cartridge, it's extremely important to use a top-quality interconnect between the tonearm and phono stage. The Heimdall 2 Tonearm Cable+ is designed to meet the needs of the discerning audiophile and incorporates a number of features that help to transfer the signal with negligible deterioration and interference.

Named after a Norse god, the cable is part of the same range as the Heimdall 2 headphone cable (HFC 440) and shares a number of features. It is designed to be very low noise with a rapid transmission speed and a high bandwidth, achieved using a twisted pair design – employing Nordost's proprietary Micro Mono-Filament technology and individual shielding of the internal wires.

Norse code

The cable also has a separately shielded, 24AWG silver-plated, stranded OFC bond wire, wrapped in Micro Mono-Filament, to offer additional immunity from external interference. The four signal wires are twisted in pairs and made from 28AWG silver-plated 99.99999 OFC solid core conductors. Uniquely, the Heimdall 2 is supplied with two detachable 24AWG silver-plated, stranded OFC earth wires that can be plugged into a special splitter/connector at the amplifier end so you can use the cable's shield as an additional earth connection to eliminate potential hum loops. The standard 1.25m cable is fitted with a straight MoonGlo DIN plug and RCA or XLR connectors. Additional length cables and a 90° DIN connector option are also available for an additional cost.

I connect the Heimdall 2 between my Jelco SA-750 tonearm, with a Miyajima Kansui MC cartridge, and my valve phono stage. My first impressions are favourable – the quality of the cable and connectors



is superb. I start my listening tests with Mozart's *Symphony No. 41, Jupiter*, played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The excellent dynamic range is not at all hampered by the Heimdall 2, with the strings in the quieter sections of the first movement being delightfully delicate and contrasting strikingly with the livelier sections. I am really drawn into the musicality of the performance, which is both energetic and refined.

Next up is some jazz from The Yuko Mabuchi Trio. *On Green Dolphin Street* kicks off with a lovely piano introduction before the double bass and drums join in and the piece follows through to the swinging main melody. The bass fingering is clear and the piano sparkles with energy.

Lyn Stanley And Her Jazz Mavericks' rendition of *Route 66* is classy and her relaxed style of singing comes through beautifully. The instrument focus and clarity are both excellent and the soundstage is expansive. Meanwhile, *Late Race*, by Steve Race places the saxophone on the left playing the melody in *Round Midnight*, the harpsichord in the

centre and the guitar on the right. This showcases the precise imaging of the music in my listening room.

With Azymuth's *Equipe 68* the bass is powerful and punchy and the drums and hi-hats are crisp, tight and engaging. The great energy is splendidly conveyed and the instrument focus of the hi-hats is particularly well defined.

String theory

I finish off with Haydn's *Baryton Trios* performed by the Esterhazy Baryton Trio. A baryton is a stringed instrument fitted with six or seven strings that can be bowed and also has a number of thin, metal strings running behind the fingerboard that resonate when the upper ones are bowed. The result is a unique and very pleasing sound that can be quite a challenge for an audio system to reproduce well, but the magical sound is handled perfectly here.

Overall, I can't fault the performance of the Heimdall 2, it's a safe investment for any high-end audio system. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE
£740 for a 1.25m cable, plus £100 for an additional 0.5m length and £45 for a 90° DIN connector

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OUR VERDICT

