



# Nordost Red Dawn 3

**WINNER**  
CABLE SYSTEM

**T**he Red Dawn 3 interconnect, power cord and speaker cable sit at the top of Nordost's four-layer entry-level Leif family and stand as an entirely valid and sensible entry point to the brand's ecosystem.

The loudspeaker cable retains the familiar ribbon topology that has defined Nordost's speaker cables since the early Red Dawn from decades ago, though the Leif cables (save for the power cord) eschew the complex, costly micro mono-filament construction of the ranges above it. Instead, they favour a more conventional FEP insulation/dielectric layout, in physical contact with the manufacturer's own silver-plated OFC copper conductors.

The analogue interconnects use the same Neutrik connectors as the range-up Norse series, while the speaker cable uses more robust versions of the Z-plug banana or spade connectors for more consistent termination. These all add up to a major improvement.

## Coherence and cohesiveness

At odds with the conventional internet 'wisdom' that Nordost cables are bright, with spotlit treble and lightweight bass, the Red Dawn 3 cables sound solid, hearty and cohesive, with a level of subtlety and insight beyond what reviewer Steve Dickinson expected. "The Red Dawn 3 delivers a feeling of musical intent and integrity," he notes. "You're never left feeling that the cable has somehow 'edited' your musical experience."

He praises the range as a whole, calling out the speaker cable's "grainless, even-handed quality" and "level of coherence that, at this price and even considerably beyond it, cannot be taken for granted". Using the power cord via Nordost's QB6v3 mains block, "music is presented without artifice or preference, whether classical, jazz, 'girl-and-guitar' or electronica; all were rendered with equal finesse and assuredness."

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