

soundbites

HI-FI WORLD

AR SOUND LUNAR RCA £462/1M

Here's a well presented, nicely finished high end RCA interconnect from another new manufacturer. The Lunar is described as an aerospace grade cable with silvered copper alloy and extruded PTFE dielectric insulation. Triple multi layered braided shielding with 99.5% coverage is said to ensure full protection from RFI and EMI. It comes in a pseudo balanced configuration, with a floating double screen for extremely low noise, the company says. Interestingly it sports an anti vibration mechanism *a la* Naim cables; the thinking is that cables transmit vibrations into the equipment, which duly degrades the sound, and I concur. In this case, a nonresonant polymer treatment for the air gap between the cable and the plug is used. WBT110 Cu 'Nextgen' RCA connectors with

gold plating over pure copper are fitted. This surrounds four 21 AWG main copper alloy conductors for each channel, insulated with Teflon (PTFE) and fully screened with two primary silver plated copper braids. A secondary 14 AWG copper shield is then overlapped over the two internal screened cables, which is said to lower stray capacitance. All in all it's a very well presented product which feels of good quality.

A very fine sounding cable, the AR Sound Lunar has a spry, open presentation with the sort of bass depth to beef up topky sounding systems. Low frequencies come over with a satisfying urge that's rarely heard on a cable even at this price. Redskins' 'Kick Over the Statues' had great power across the low frequencies, something which is unusual considering the bright sound balance of this edgy

eighties recording. Yet the midband was impressive too, with no chance of any shrillness. Rhythms were beautifully carried with a natural ease; there was no sense of them sounding forced as some other copper cables can. Upper frequencies had fine clarity; there's a slight lack of air at the very top compared to the better silver cables, but no glare. Cymbals sounded tactile and sweetly resolved. Overall, an excellent result for those wanting a big hearted, smooth yet punchy prospect. **DP**

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