



Black Rhodium Intro £45

This new range from Black Rhodium's sister company offers a cost-effective introduction to the brand

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Black Rhodium Intro

ORIGIN
UK

TYPE
RCA analogue interconnect

FEATURES

- Conductors: 0.58mm diameter copper
- Dielectric: polyethylene with 30 percent glass fibre
- Screening: double screened with a mesh outer braid
- Connectors: gold-plated REAN RCA

DISTRIBUTOR
Analogue Seduction

Available in a choice of seven rather fetching hues of outer braids that will suit any colour scheme, the idea behind the Intro brand is to offer low-cost cables at an accessible price to encourage consumers to try out the company's handmade options. Although the cost is relatively low, this interconnect still benefits from the newly researched technology that Black Rhodium has applied to its more expensive high-end ranges. The Intro employs 0.58mm diameter copper wire for the signal conductors and is fitted internally with a double screen. The outer screen is a mesh braid designed to aid damping of micro-vibrations within the cable, which is a great feature to have in an interconnect at this price. The conductors are insulated in polyethylene with 30 percent glass fibre. The cable is terminated with gold-plated RCA plugs, made by Rean – a brand of Neutrik AG connectors with a great reputation for high-quality plugs in the industry. These are fitted with heatshrink over the top of the barrels and onto the cable in order to provide strain relief, but this makes that part of the cable rather less flexible so it will potentially protrude further from the back of your equipment. The cable is only 6.8mm in diameter, so apart from the section with heatshrink fitted to the

RCA plugs, it is very easy to fit around the back of equipment in tight spaces.

Sound quality

I find myself feeling very involved with the performance of JS Bach's *Partita No.2* right from the outset. In both the quiet and louder segments, there is an overwhelming sense of realism with the Intro cable installed, as well as great clarity in the harmonics of each note of the harpsichord. The tonal changes brought about by the different pedal stops are very noticeable. The overall tone of the instrument is wonderfully clear and not at all edgy, which allows me to focus on the music rather than the recording itself. Consequently, the variation in expression of Pinnock's playing becomes more evident as the piece progresses and the overall realism of the instrument in my listening room is excellent. All in all, the Intro cable turns out a very sophisticated performance.

This continues with Clare Teal's collaboration with the Syd Lawrence Orchestra. Elegant and accomplished playing come across in abundance with the Intro fitted, while the sound from the orchestra is effortlessly clear and bright. Teal's vocals ooze excitement and energy and never find themselves swamped by the brass section. This time, I am particularly aware of the piano accompaniment

and the tinkling of the hi-hats. The timing of the percussion impeccably maintains the swing element of the music by acting almost as a 'swing metronome', sustaining an accurate pace to the music. The brass instruments are bright and sharp, just as they should be, but have a slight rounding to the tone at the extreme top end that allows for extended listening without incurring any aural fatigue.

Switching to the jazz from Yuko Mabuchi, I am again aware of the environment of this live recording session in front of an audience. The ambience of the recording venue is very clear and the imaging of each of the four instruments is excellent. In my listening room the piano, double

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bass, drums and trumpet each occupy their own clearly defined location. As with the Performance Audio 40i, there is an inky blackness during the silences where all you can sense is the atmosphere of the hall, which shows the effectiveness of the screening of the cable. Here again, the freshness and energy that Yuko and her team impart to this classic Miles Davis piece is clearly reproduced.

Concluding with the Prokofiev minuet by the London Symphony Orchestra, here again the word sophistication comes to mind as the powerful playing is full, open and elegant in every respect. The great dynamic range of this recording is also very well reproduced, as are the changing moods that are inherent in this composition.

Black Rhodium's Intro is a really lovely interconnect and provides a very sophisticated sound ●

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★	LIKE: Elegant sound quality
VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★	DISLIKE: Nothing at the price
BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★	WESAY: Smart-looking interconnect with a classy sound quality
FEATURES ★★★★★	

OVERALL

