



We're keeping it!

PHONO INTERCONNECT CABLE

VIABLU NF-S5 PHONO

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We have been enjoying and using German Viablue cables for several years now. They are extremely reasonably priced and are handmade in Germany. The latest addition to the range, the NF-S5 phono version, is as successful as it is versatile, with a wide range of different versions available.



ORIGIN
Germany

PRICE
€ 550 (RCA/RCA 1m)
€ 650 (RCA/5-pin SME 90° din 1m)

The NF-S5 phono cable has been specially designed to connect turntables with versatile and flexible coupling options, including various connectors. It consists of five silver-plated conductors with a large cross-section of 5 x 0.5 mm². In general, for the relatively weak signals from tonearms, optimal and complete 100% shielding is essential. The NF-S5 is therefore equipped with hybrid shielding consisting of a spiral layer and a

foil. The internal silver-plated OFC (oxygen-free copper) conductors are individually insulated with polyethylene, a low-electrostatic charge material that significantly improves the sound profile in the high frequencies. The five conductors arranged in a circle around a polypropylene filler in the centre make the cable geometry particularly effective. The result is low capacitance, which guarantees the best possible signal transmission. The five internal conductors of the NF-S5 allow for a

wide variety of configurations and connection options, including DIN, DIN 90, RCA and XLR connectors. All connectors are developed in-house by Viablue. The T8 plugs feature an all-metal housing made of refined aluminium to ensure secure and precise connections. Potential users will therefore have the choice they need to find the right connector for their tonearm.

INSTALLATION

We connected the Viablue cable to our Technics SL1210 “custom” turntable and a Lehmann Black Cube SE2 phono preamplifier. For our purposes, we used an RCA to RCA model with a mini-spade ground cable. In use, this cable is flexible despite its substantial cross-section. It slips easily behind devices and can be routed with ease.

THE SOUND

Replacing a venerable but musical Linn Analog Interconnect cable, the Viablue NF-S5 immediately justified the increase in the system’s



price with a noticeable improvement in certain parameters. The first striking sensation is that of a denser reproduction with tonal balance that comes across with greater persuasion. In general, there is a greater sense of presence, with bass that is both rounder and more energetic, warmer midrange and very well-integrated treble. As a corollary to the more robust bass, the soundstage unfolds with greater conviction and increased precision in the background. You find yourself listening louder and longer, as if the slight harshness has disappeared.

OUR CONCLUSION

This new cable is clearly a success. As usual, the build quality is original and flawless. You can tell that this model has been thought out in every detail by people who are real users of analog sources. Of course, the sound quality is exactly what you would expect from a high-end product, but there’s more. Viablue has not hesitated to design and craft its own connectors. There is something for every use and every configuration, allowing the discerning user to find exactly what they need. A success in this price range. ■

