



CHORD CLEARWAY DIGITAL INTERCONNECT £100

Chord made a genuine leap forward with the introduction of its ARAY range of digital and analogue interconnects. Here was a new cable topology that really could bring an extra degree of openness and clarity to a system.

The original range came in at the higher end of the company's series of cables – but the Aray technology is now trickling down to more affordable models. I was

mightily impressed with the £45 C-Line analogue interconnect (see review Hi-Fi World May 2015) and now there's the Clearway digital interconnect – which comes in at £100 for a 1 metre length.

The cable features a solid core, oxygen-free copper core, with low-loss polyethylene insulation, a high-density braided shield and the Aray conductor. Chord says this design reduces interference and internal reflections and eliminates changes to impedance – a crucial factor in maintaining signal integrity. It's available with RCA, BNC or mini-jack connectors

Like other Aray products the Clearway is characterised by a clean, open sound with great dynamic range.

Swapping out my usual interconnect from between a Naim

NDX and Chord 2Qute DAC and the Clearway had a clearer, more open sound with improved instrumental separation.

On John Coltrane's 'Ascension' what can sometimes sound like an unstructured cacophony gained immediate focus with the clever interplay between the musicians being brought into sharp relief.

The Clearway seems to let the music flow naturally – with none of the occasional smear or slight veiling of frequencies that some digital cables can impart.

That translates to a vibrancy on all genres of music, with deep, impactful bass, shining but never edgy treble and smooth midband.

At just £100 the Clearway brings Chord's Aray technology within reach of a much greater number of people. If you are looking to improve the digital side of your system this is a must-hear. **JM**

[The Chord Company
www.chord.co.uk]