

## Meicord Opal Ethernet cord

**T**he Opal Ethernet patch cord, which costs between £72 and £96 – depending on length (1, 2, 3 and 5 metres including snag-resistant connectors) – is the finest of its type that I have seen. My only criticism of the cable concerns its stiffness – it is nowhere near as flexible as most ‘regular’ patch leads – but that shouldn’t pose any insurmountable problems in most systems.

### Sound quality

I tested the cable in my regular music network, which consists of Gigabit switchgear and unshielded Cat 5 and Cat 6 cabling. (It is inadvisable to mix shielded and unshielded cables in one’s network; although one might imagine that shielded cables are best, I prefer unshielded types). Using a variety of music files – the majority of which were 16-bit/44.1kHz resolution, the 3m Meicord cable sounded superior to a 1m manufacturer-selected example, which had been supplied with a £100 router, when used between a switch and a media player on an electronically ‘busy’ equipment rack.

Through the Meicord, the music seemed blessed with more weight, solidity and authority. It was more convincing, both in tonal terms, where instruments had more credible timbre, and in its timing, where music had a more persuasive and cohesive sense of flow.

The differences heard weren’t ‘night and day’, but the improvement garnered was well worth having. In a finely honed system the audible differences were subtle, but nonetheless appreciable. They strike me as worthwhile if you want the finest performance from an audiophile-grade networked hi-fi system. **MS**



### DETAILS

**PRICE:** £72-£96  
(1-5 M)

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### OUR VERDICT

