



Come in No.75!

Looking to enhance your hi-fi's performance with a quality mains cable? Paul Rigby reviews one example, MCRU's No.75.

Whenever I buy a new piece of hi-fi hardware, the first thing I do, before I even take the product out of the box, is reach for the bundled, kettle-type mains cable and sling it out of the window – accompanied by numerous Latin curses. Why? Because your basic mains cable does less than nothing to remove intrusive, veiling noise. It often aids the stuff and helps it along!

If you've spent a packet on your hi-fi system, do yourself a favour and invest in quality cabling. Does this MCRU example qualify as quality, though?

The No.75 is made from a pure copper core, silver plated and cryogenically treated. I was pleased to see that the cable was terminated by a Furutech FI-1363 plug (specially made for MCRU). I have a lot of time for Furutech. Yes, there are other fine termination plugs out there but

the use of Furutech products shows that MCRU means business. The only possible issue with this plug is that, when installed, the cable emerges vertically from the plug and not horizontally. Be aware of that in case it causes space issues.

The company does proclaim the use of internal filtering although there's no external evidence of it.

SOUND QUALITY

Plugging the 1.7m version into my Icon Audio PS3 phono amplifier I played David Bowie's 'Breaking Glass' from the Berlin-centric LP, 'Low'.

I was impressed because in and around the central stereo image is where the gated drum sounds lived, normally swamping the attendant bass guitar right alongside. Not here, though. The bass guitar was easily separated by my ear and was defined enough to be followed easily right through the track. Meanwhile, the ride cymbal offered enough clarity and precision to reveal its the unique

pulsing effect, but there was also sufficient definition to exhibit a more complex tapping rhythm than is normally heard from cables (of lower ability).

Switching this mains cable to my pre-amp and moving to the jazzy honky tonk from Don Cornell and 'Heart of my Heart' from the original 'Great Hits' Dot release, I was happy to hear added space and air in and around the soundstage – and good attendant instrumental separation.

Finally, delicate percussive taps emerged adjacent to the shy piano sounds, both clearly identifiable at the rear of the mix unlike before.

CONCLUSION

A well behaved mains cable, in sonic terms, that adds no colour to the musical presentation, the No.75 cable provides both midrange and bass insight, digging gently yet significantly into the mix and, for the price, providing significant overall clarity.

**MRCU NO.75
MAINS CABLE
£135 1.7M
(OTHER LENGTHS
AVAILABLE)**



**OUTSTANDING - amongst
the best.**

VERDICT

Offering enough insight to extract even shy and retiring detail, the No.75 lowers veiling noise to enhance overall sound quality

FOR

- midrange insight
- disciplined soundstage
- bass detail

AGAINST

- nothing at the price

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