

High Fidelity Cables CT-1



CHRISTIAAN PUNTER 26 May 2013 No Comments



Digital Coaxial Cable with Magnetic Conduction

Retail price approx 622 euro per meter

Review sample supplied directly by manufacturer [highfidelitycables](http://highfidelitycables.com)



Magnetic Conduction

I'm familiar with quite a few interesting principles in hifi. Popular ones, obscure ones and quite a few of the snake oil category, but Magnetic Conduction is new for me. Call me gullible but I'm intrigued already! What is it and how does it work?

Summed up, the information on the website reads: As implemented by High Fidelity Cables, Magnetic Conduction offers a magnetic as well as electrically conductive pathway for signal transfer. How? You might well ask. Before they answer that, they state the following: To appreciate the impact of Magnetic Conduction technology, it is important to understand that an electrical signal is always accompanied by a magnetic field. Ok, that does make sense. But still, how do you use this to your advantage? In the CT-1, the entire cable is directionally magnetized to promote signal transfer. An electrical signal is strongly motivated to follow a magnetic field, as demonstrated by experiments in which electricity/plasma is attracted or repelled by magnetic fields. Our Magnetic Mapping process is used to align magnetic poles at each end of the cable. In effect, we use magnetism to keep the electrical signal flow aligned and to minimize the random pathways for electrons within and along the conductor. Convinced? I'm sure critics will have a thing or two to say but for me this explanation is plausible enough.

There's more to this cable than Magnetic Conduction though. The connectors are also rather special. First: they are huge. They have to be because they have magnets inside. The connectors make for a very tight grip which is fine on equipment with solid connectors but my classic Philips CD player was less happy when every twist I made with the cable's connector, made the chassisconnector wiggle on the PCB. But with being careful I managed to repeatedly insert and remove the connector without problems.

The conductor, wrapped in Teflon, is made from a secretive alloy that itself becomes fully magnetised and forms an uninterrupted electronically as well as magnetically conductive pathway. The pin inside the connector has a special design, too: instead of employing a standard pin, High Fidelity Cables use a 4-way split pin with a slightly wider spring loaded ball at the end which compresses on insertion.

There's a lot more info on the site but I'm always more interested in the final results so let's just move on to how it sounds.



Running in

I was forewarned that the cable would require plenty of running in: the CT-1 would keep improving until about 100 hours. It seems that this is true. Initial listening to the brand-new cable revealed it as being too thin in the bass and a touch too hard in the midrange. I dug up my trusty and indestructible Philips CD880 and left a CD running on repeat for two full days. On the third day the sound was already a lot friendlier and more fluid: treble was now more gentle and the midrange wasn't shouty anymore. Bass remained taut and tight. I left the CD player spinning for another couple of days until I was well past 100 hours. I felt that the sound hadn't changed much after the initial 24 hours of running in but if anything it had become a little richer and fuller.



Listening

In order to be absolutely sure of the CT-1's sound signature, I used it with two different CD players and two different DACs.

First up was the [Levinson 390S](#) into the Jeff Rowland Aeris DAC. The overall impression is of an accurate, well-paced, upbeat sound with excellent focus and low level detailing. The sound is very pure and honest: it is not clinical or dry but it can be a little gray. Mind you, there's enough body and the bass is actually extremely well-balanced but with some CD's I found that the system as a whole could do with a little more colour and richness. This is absolutely a function of my system: I know that the Maggies can sound a little too clean and this is why I normally use warmer sounding cables.

Swapping back to my usual Wireworld Gold Starlight III+ confirmed my ideas about colour and richness, but also made it painfully clear that the Wireworld couldn't match the CT-1's pureness, mostly obvious in the bass and overall coherence. The CT-1's bass really is something special: weighed just right, fast, articulate, deep and full yet without any overhang. At this stage I was a little torn between the cables, the CT1 appealing more to my mind and the Wireworld more to my heart. Overall, I would have to say that the CT-1 is the more honest cable.