Nordost
Blue Heaven LS analog interconnect

HAILING FROM NORDOST'S entry-level Leif family of cables, the Blue Heaven range includes everything from RCAs, to tonearm, Ethernet and USBs. All the Leif cables are constructed using silver-plated, OFC solid core conductors that have undergone the company's proprietary FEP extrusion process. This individually encloses each conductor in FEP insulation to reduce the dielectric properties by increasing the signal speeds to improve accuracy of the signal transfer. This is further improved by mechanically tuning the conductors through the adjustment of their dimensions and spacing.

The cable has a translucent blue sheath and is terminated at each end with gold-plated RCA connectors. It is directional and this is indicated by arrows printed on the heatshrink at one end. The cable is quite flexible and I have no difficulty fitting it to the back of my equipment between my valve preamp and monoblock amps.

Samba in blue

I kick off with a Sixties LP of Tony Mottola playing some classic Latin music. This is an excellent recording and Mottola's version of *Summer Samba* comes across clearly and effortlessly. The flute solo is bright and the percussion fresh and open. The crystal-clear top end is a real testament to the silver-plating on the OFC conductors. Of particular merit is the impeccably balanced interplay between guitar and wind instruments, while the tonal detail of each instrument is perfect.

With Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A minor*, the reproduction of the piano is spot on and bass response is powerful, extended and tight.

Vivaldi's *Concerto No.2* performed by I Musici brilliantly conveys the blackness of the silences between sections, as well as the excellent dynamic range. The detail is all there and the harpsichord in the background is very clear.

This interconnect offers superb detail, a full soundstage and really refined performances. **NR**

OUR VERDICT
★★★★★