

Melco

C100 Ethernet cable

ESTABLISHED IN 1975 in Japan by audiophile Makoto Maki, Melco (Maki Engineering Laboratory Company) originally designed and manufactured high-quality audio components. The company has since broadened its range to include computer peripherals including NAS drives. Now, bringing together the two, it offers audiophile-quality network audio products.

As a replacement of the company's first C1AE Ethernet cable, the C100 incorporates upgrades to reduce noise and improve networked audio sound quality. It incorporates asymmetric drain wire earthing, where one end is the earthing point. The idea is that unwanted noise – either external or from connected devices – travels in one direction to the single earth end, which is indicated by a Melco logo. The non-earthed end has a floating

shield, which is not attached to the connector plug, to prevent noise being transferred to connected audio devices downstream. Other features include gold-plated connectors, a smooth outer finish to avoid tangling and double shielding. Bandwidth is rated at 600MHz, which is 2.4x the bandwidth of CAT6 cable. The C100 is available in lengths of 1m, 2m, 3m, 5m and 10m.

Perfect timing

I hook up the cable between my network hub and Cambridge Audio Azur 851N streamer, and select a 24-bit/192kHz FLAC of Lyn Stanley's *Pink Cadillac*. The imaging is spot on, which indicates good timing and negligible jitter. Stanley's vocals are positioned right in the centre of the soundstage with the electric guitar close behind her slightly to the left and piano further back to the right.



Listening to a 24-bit/192kHz file of The Locrian Ensemble performing the *Rondo* from Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, the accuracy of the instrument placement within the soundstage is superb. Also, the wide dynamic range of the recording is splendidly transported by the C100. This is a very well made cable and does an excellent job of sending the digital signals to my streamer. **NR**

▶ DETAILS

PRICE
£125 for 1m
WEBSITE
melco-audio.com

OUR VERDICT

