

# FURUTECH

HiFi News (UK) – Reference III Review

May 2012



**AUDIO FILE**

RCA and XLR terminated interconnect cable  
Made by: Furutech Co. Ltd, Japan  
Supplied by: Sound Foundations  
Telephone: 01276 501 392  
Web: www.furutech.com; www.soundfoundations.co.uk

**CABLES**

## Furutech Reference III (£1155-1320)

Furutech's Reference-series RCA and XLR-terminated interconnects have been wowing audiophiles in its native Japan for nearly a decade. We discover them for ourselves  
Review: **Paul Miller**

If it's one thing that varies as much as choice of conductor, geometry and dielectric in the wild, wild world of audiophile cables, then that is their *build quality*. I've seen interconnects boasting silver strands and fancy plugs that look like they've been soldered by a donkey. A donkey with a blindfold. Which is why for a cable to land on these pages it must not only promise the best materials but also deliver the very highest standards of construction.

### ANATOMY OF A CABLE

By this measure, the Reference III series of interconnects from Furutech are positively exquisite. The cable itself is based around cores comprising 30 fine strands of alpha-OC copper, each core insulated in an air-foamed HDPE and twisted into pairs with a supportive cotton yarn. Even finer strands form the braided inner screen, the composite cable then clamped in a two-layer PVC sheath and jacketed in nylon. The large block seen fixed around one end of the cable is packed with Furutech's 'GC-303 formula', presumably a proprietary ferrite clamp, or choke, to reduce the ingress of RF noise into a partnering preamp, integrated or power amplifier.

All metal parts are treated using Furutech's 'Alpha Process' – a cryogenic

**RIGHT:** The RCA-terminated interconnect features a centre pin that compresses into the phono socket



and demagnetizing procedure that defines the brand and, some might say, the *sound* of its cables. Treatment includes the connectors themselves, typically machined from phosphor bronze, rhodium-plated and separated in a pure Teflon dielectric. The RCAs are lockable for an exceptionally snug fit.

### SOUND OF SILENCE

If Furutech's lowlier 'Evolution' cables offer a sharp and uncommonly detailed sound, then these 'Reference Series' interconnects deliver much the same critical insight but from a quieter,

darker backdrop. The piano lead from Trichotomy's *Gentle War* [Naim CD 156 download] was seemingly perfectly balanced in attack and decay, its sublime clarity glittering over the jazz trio's grumbling acoustic bass line. And all the while there was this, well, silence – a sense of underlying calm that cosseted the performers and their instruments.

If ever a cable could tease both energetic detail and a sense of inner peace from your separates, then the Reference IIIs come pretty close. It's an eclectic mix, but one that creates a truly inviting musical landscape. ☺

**RIGHT:** The Reference III series cables include a proprietary RF/EMI-rejecting ferrite clamp



### HI-FI NEWS VERDICT

There are no arcane arts at work here, for what you see is very much what you get. And even what you cannot see remains proven engineering, a combination of top quality conductors and dielectrics, assembled with precision into a geometry that promises a broad compatibility with most source components and amplifiers. At £1155 a pop (1.2m RCA pair) they are not cheap, but both build and sound is as flawless as you might wish for.

Sound Quality: 84%

