

FURUTECH

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Silver Arrows Phono Cable Review

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The fine art of cable making

Sometimes, you encounter a piece of audio gear that is so meticulously executed and engineered that it's hard not to anticipate the sonic excellence that such a component surely should be capable of. The Furutech Silver Arrows phono cable is a case in point.

Every tangible aspect, from the superior rhodium-plated DIN and RCA connectors, to the cryogenically treated pure silver conductors, has been crafted with such absolute attention to detail and quality that it's almost a shame to hide it away under a turntable and behind a hi-fi component rack.



Vital Stats

Cable type	RCA/DIN-terminated phono cable
Length	1,2 m
Directional	Yes
Conductors	Eight, pair-arranged pure silver conductors, triple shielding, four-way grounding
Connectors	Rhodium-plated OCC, carbon and stainless-steel shells
Insulation	Air-foamed polyethylene
Dimensions	10,8 mm x 1,2 m
PRICE	R17 780

VERDICT

Comprehensive shielding and grounding ensures superior noise rejection. Fine, refined and highly resolved delivery – exceptional treatment of ambient subtleties and details.

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Furutech's commitment to quality is the stuff of legends, and the Silver Arrows is a particularly impressive example of the cable maker's art. The excellence is tangible from the moment you lift the cable with its chunky, hefty connectors out of the box.

Besides the obvious attention to manufacturing detail expressed by the massive, solid metal connectors (the DIN socket is truly an almost sculptural piece of art), the real effort of this phono cable has been twofold: retaining signal integrity through efficient transmission using cryogenically treated pure silver conductors, and ensuring absolute rejection of noise and interference.

The latter aspect is particularly relevant, since the signal delivered by a moving coil cartridge is so minuscule that it is particularly prone to noise-related artefacts.

Furutech's comprehensive noise insulation approach is to create four pairs of 0,5 mm solid-core pure silver conductors, and to wrap each pair in special-grade, air-foamed polyethylene, followed by a layer of aluminium

foil tape. These four conductor pairs are then bundled and wrapped in an inner aluminium foil shield, followed by an outer shield consisting of a 0,1 mm layer of OFC wire braid.

A flexible sheath of lead-free PVC serves as a damping insulation layer, while the cable is finished off with a durable, braided nylon jacket.

Effectively, this construction provides four-way shielding in the interests of effective noise rejection, and four-way grounding, together with an external grounding wire, equipped with a specially designed clamp for an optimised grounding connection.

A closer look at the RCA connectors shows a rhodium-plated, cryogenically treated OCC centre pin, a rhodium-plated copper alloy body, and a copper alloy wire set screw. The shells are made of non-magnetic stainless

steel and carbon fibre.

The Silver Arrows phono cable was appraised in conjunction with modified RB250 and RB300 tonearms, mainly because both are equipped with DIN sockets. The arms are used on a stock Rega Planar 3 tonearm. A Benz Micro Wood SL moving coil cartridge was used as the reference throughout.

Even in the context of this modest set-up (considering the Furutech's price tag) the superior sonic properties of the Silver Arrows was immediately apparent. Most obvious was the reduction in background noise, and the resultant boost in outright clarity and resolution.

It was as if a veil had been lifted off the music: the treble had more gloss and sheen, but without any harshness or sibilance, and

details not noticeable before suddenly jumped to the fore. The midrange showed improved texture and resolution, while low-frequency notes carried more weight.

There was an overall impression of improved refinement and finesse, as well as a more assertive delivery, with a more specifically defined soundstage and enhanced dimensionality.

So yes, the differences were substantial, but I suspect a more revealing turntable would show up even greater sonic gains.

The Furutech Silver Arrows phono cable is at the upper echelon of this specialised segment, and performs accordingly. While the investment in ownership is substantial, the return on that investment is unequivocal.

Deon Schoeman