

# SOUNDBITES



## ORTOFON LW-7N HEADSHELL CABLES £45.00

Although it is generally accepted that better quality interconnects, speaker cable and mains leads all play their part in improving the sound from our hi-fis, the short cables that connect the cartridge to the headshell pins in a pick-up arm are rarely given much consideration.

Since this is the first wire that

the very delicate signal from a cartridge passes through it is something of an oversight to spend money on good leads from the base of the arm and not to include the headshell leads in this upgrade process.

Ortofon have recognised this and offer a range of three headshell leads priced from £35 to

£85 a set.

The £45 LW-7N leads under review here are a hybrid design consisting of ultra high purity copper wire of both 6N and 7N purity (99.99999% purity for the 7N).

The blend is made up of 3 x 0.26mm strands of 7N and 16 x 0.10mm of 6N copper. The end of the wire is fastened by a rhodium-plated terminal.

I tried these out on my Linn Ittok LVV arm. Replacing the original components took a matter of moments with a pair of small pliers.

Once in place the initial sound was a definite improvement over that provided by the original leads and improved quite drastically over the next few hours of use.

I felt that all aspects of the sound improved, with the blackness between sounds being darker and more consistent.

Singers seemed to be more of a three dimensional entity and the micro-detailing that fleshes out a sonic image was improved.

If you have an arm with headshell leads then it is a very worthwhile and cost effective exercise to upgrade them.

I am now sitting here wondering why I never thought to do something as simple as this before.

TB

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