



# INNER EAR REPORT

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## GutWire Audio Cables Synchrony Digital Cable

**Rating:** \* \* \* 1/2 / \* \* \* \*

**T**he Gutwire folks are relative newcomers to the cable business, having marketed their products for just over a year. The first Gutwire product, an AC cable called G Clef was introduced in 1998. This was followed by another, the upgraded Power Clef AC cable made for components which draw massive electricity in order to perform at their best. These cables were reviewed in Vol. 11 #1 and 11 #4 respectively. The Synchrony is the company's first digital interconnect, shortly to be followed by a complete line of unbalanced (single-ended) audio interconnects and speaker cables. But first things first...

### Appearance:

The traditional red jacket has been replaced with a plain black mesh that will blend into a system without being obvious. A couple of RCA-type connectors on either end complete the appearance of this interconnect.

### Technology:

A closer look at the RCAs reveals that they are the locking type, terminating in oxygen-free high purity copper. The conductors are doubly shielded and arranged in a proprietary geometric pattern which exploits the material's potential for speedy signal transmission. The terminations are crimped, a method which we believe is sonically superior to soldering. The plain-looking outer jacket is made of a fine nylon weave which feels like cotton. Gutwire's tests revealed that this weave yields much

better, smoother and more transparent sound than the braided nylon material used in the company's AC cables.

### The Sound:

We connected the Audio Alchemy DAC/DTI-Pro as well as the Belcanto DAC1 (reviewed in this issue) to a couple of transports to check the sound through a pair of Tetra speakers connected to a pair of Sugden monoblocks and the Topaz monoblocks (also reviewed in this issue). For our panelists, we arranged a comparison with a Cardas, a JPW and a few other digital interconnects we had in-house. Interestingly, a few panelists didn't appreciate the Gutwire's speed and its revealing quality. While everyone agreed that the cable is very effective in revealing inner detail, focus and staging, some folks thought that it might be a touch too enlightening, revealing CD production weaknesses without mercy. Our Editor, on the other hand, found the sound to be full-bodied, with well-defined bass and highs he described as open, airy and effortless. He also commented on the cable's "revealing" quality. He contends that a cable's function is not to influence or "fix" the sound, but to transmit and communicate information as candidly as possible-and that is exactly what you get from these cables.

### Synopsis & Commentary:

In the world of high-end audio, it is difficult to cater to everyone's tonal requirements.

Choosing the right digital interconnect for a system is a very personal affair as tastes differ from listener to listener. Manufacturers know this and have the option to introduce a number of "sonic signatures" or produce what they believe is "accurate sound". We know, and you know too, that people will buy whatever they deem right for their systems. And then again, there is the matter of synergy whereby one cable may sound better than another. However, even when we take all the traits, sonic differences and personal tastes into consideration, we still wind up here with one of the industry's better digital conductors. The proof of the pudding will come from actually trying the cable in your system. Remember that cables which soften the sound, mask digital glare or alter the tonal balance are actually colouring musical

program material. If you like your sound as natural as possible, try the Gutwire, as it offers a straight forward transmission system for digital data with this end result-analogue audio.

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