

OPTICAL CABLES

VAN DEN HUL OPTOCOUPLER

OPTICAL couplings are becoming more and more popular, especially as a means of connecting in the digital domain. The theoretical limit of fibre optic data transmission is as yet still theoretical since as fast as data is transmitted down a fibre optic line, so too the line appears capable of handling it. Nonetheless, a guaranteed transmission speed of 250 Mbit/s is quite impressive and more than adequate for crystal clear digital transmission.



Optical connectors are for some reason shunned in audiophile circles with coaxial taking centre stage as the preferred medium of digital information transmission. I subscribe to this tendency, it must be stated, as I have had my best results with coaxial cables.

That the future is optical is in no doubt and a cable like this one is one of the reasons. I haven't had as good a result with an optical cable yet, as I have had with the Van den Hul.

Its data transmission is excellent, although the sound can only be as good as the quality of the digital source: in this case the excellent Sony DVP 735 DVD player. Quality of decoding of the signal is equally important, and the Yamaha RXV3000 did an outstanding job in this regard.

The convenience of optical lies in that there is virtually no signal distortion, as opposed to a coaxial cable that seeks to prevent signal distortion. It is a very small and subtle difference in approach, but one that will no doubt have its critics either way espousing the various benefits of one technology over the other. Having said that though, critically in the future, speed of transmission via optical can be radically increased far more easily than with coaxial - you only need a tiny fibre to transmit optical and a bunch of them together could lead to some very interesting sonic results.

But I digress. The Van den Hul Optocoupler is superb in terms of what is available right here, right now. Take a listen!

William Kelly

VERDICT

High performance optical cable.
Extended clarity, extended depth,
getting close coaxial...

Audio Video South Africa, July 2001

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