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Light on the way



Decades ago, Van den Hul became known for its excellent pickup systems, all of which were meticulously handcrafted in the Netherlands - more analogue is hardly possible. In addition to the pickups, which are still manufactured and repaired if necessary, high-quality cables such as the van den Hul The Optocoupler MK II have been produced for several years. As the name suggests, the Van den Hul The Opto coupler MK II is an optical audio cable for transmitting optical, i.e. digital, audio signals between the devices. This is not a departure from the company's analogue origins, but rather a logical consequence, because after all, this is also about the careful forwarding of highly sensitive audio data. If possible, these should get from A to B, or from the source to the end device, undamaged and without interference, no more but no less.



The plugs are made of metal, both ends of the light guide are provided with a convex lens, which reduces scattering and ensures a secure contact



The sleeve stabilizes the cable against kinks that are too tight

For this purpose, van den Hul has given special thought to the inner conductor, i.e. the glass fibers. All fibers are curved outwards at both ends like a convex lens. As a result, they not only fit particularly well into the counterparts in the sockets, they also bundle the incident light and send it as straight as possible through the conductor. Inside, there are other measures that help avoid all-too-frequent detours caused by reflections from the edges, even when the cable is bent severely. The advantage is clear; every detour costs time, even at the speed of light, and even digital signals cannot afford delay differences.

In our experience, this is not the case with The Optocoupler MK II. Docked to one of the last Oppo players as a source and connected to a Yamaha RX-A6A as an amplifying element, the cable can show what it can do. Before that, however, we were able to admire the extremely secure fit of the plugs in both devices. Everything fits perfectly here, so there is nothing to complain about in terms of the sound experience, because we are also provided with perfectly fitting timing here.

Conclusion

The development of the van den Hul The Optocoupler MK II only falls outside of the usual framework of the manufacturer at first glance. On closer inspection, it convinces with clean workmanship and an audible increase in sound quality.



Top class

van den Hul The Optocoupler MK II

Processing (20%)



Performance gain (60%)



Practice (20%)

