

Russ Andrews Kimber SB-Ag USB cable

As the name suggests, this new Kimber USB cable uses pure silver conductors rather than the less expensive silver-plated copper of the standard Kimber offering. This more than doubles the price and comes in a brash blue outer casing so that you can spot it a mile off. The plugs have silver-plated copper conductors and the drain and shield wire is similarly plated. Connectors can be USB type B as found on most DACs or Mini B at the receive end, it's also possible to get a half metre length for £86.

In use

In my reference system, USB-Ag performed very well in terms of leading edge definition and timing, delivering a lot of detail – it make steel guitar strings sound extremely crisp, for example. It's not quite as 'in the room' as our reference Vertere D-Fi (HFC 361), which doesn't usually better competitors in this respect, but its timing is in the same ballpark and that's quite a feat.

USB-Ag is a shade on the sparse side tonally, emphasising attack more than decay, but it's more than up to the task of delivering a well scaled image. There's plenty of depth on acoustic recordings and all the sparkle of live instruments. It has a lot more focus and better timing than a standard Kimber USB, which means that it's easier to separate similar instruments and to appreciate what's going on at low levels. It also sounds quite a lot cleaner when you turn up the level thanks to reduced smearing.

All-in-all, this is a fine USB connection that brings a high level of precision and finesse to the computer audio experience at a reasonable price, especially if you put the computer near the DAC. **JK**



► DETAILS

PRICE: £142/1M

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OUR VERDICT

