

AN ART'S EXCELLENCE REVIEW

Chord Company Burndy Cable

Ultimate Connection, Different Naim



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Chord Company Burndy

In the period between the first and second wave of Corona, we were able to fulfill a long standing invitation from importer Latham Audio. It was a beautiful day for a trip to Alphen (N-Br), to conduct two very special Chord Company cable reviews at the Latham headquarters. These reviews, one of them a step-by-step build-up of a complete set of Chord Company Shawline cables, and the other one a comparative test of Chord Company analog interconnects, will be published later in the fall. This mini-review here more or less forced itself on us by pure chance. While we were working hard - some would argue that 'listening to music' isn't hard work at all, but go spend a whole day listening to differences in playback - a parcel courier brought a surprise. Out of that box came a Chord Company manufactured ChordBurndy cable, designed to connect Naim upgrade power supplies to Naim amplifiers, source devices, or active crossovers. That was too good a scoop to pass up and now we can proudly publish the world's very first review (for all we know).



Naim Burndy?



Burndy cables are used in Naim's higher price range. The more expensive power supplies have a complex construction which provides multiple sections in the connected device with clean, regulated power. The Burndy is a kind of umbilical cord because it not only conducts current but also signal. Naim offers different models, all costing slightly over 600 euros. They are fitted with special connectors in which - depending on the devices for which they are designed - a specific number of pins are wired. The ChordBurndy cables from The Chord Company use the same connectors but are considerably more complex in construction. Each conductor is not only optimized specifically for its task, but it's also carefully matched to the other conductors for the best and most balanced sonic result. The Chord Company ChordBurndy cables are made to order, by hand, and are available in any required length. As a result, however, the prices are a lot higher. The cable that was delivered that day was designed to connect the XPS DR power supply to the NDX-2 streamer. It costs almost 3200 euros. Quite a sum, but we would have to listen to it to determine if this cable is worth it. So we did.

Listening to the standard Naim Burndy with the XPS

The set consisted of a Naim Supernait 3 amplifier with a Naim HiCap power supply, an NDX 2 streamer, and a Naim XPS-DR power supply that was switched on but not connected yet. The speakers were the Neat EKSTRA, all cabling was Chord Company Shawline and the network data was fed through an English Electric 8Switch audiophile switch. For the listening test we used tracks from Exit North (Bested Bones from Book Of Romance and Dust) and Leifur James (I Ran With You from Angel In Disguise). The set sounded extremely spacious, with great push and detail in the low end, a lot of texture and micro-detail, and an almost holographic image depth.



There were lots of overtones in the piano sound and the whole presentation was authoritative and calm and sounded unconstrained and smooth. When we connected the XPS DR power supply to the NDX2 streamer via a standard Naim Burndy cable, the Leifur James track got more ease and authority, there was more push and sound stage depth and the bass became more textured. The bubble of projected sound increased in height and depth. Also noticeable was the quieter background, in which separate lines were easier to keep track of, and strings had a nicer timbre.



Listening with the Chord Company Burndy

When we connected the brand-new ChordBurndy, our high expectations were somewhat tempered by the knowledge that a cable does not perform optimally until it has had some burn-in. However, experience has taught us that the sonic character does not really change. It will become more balanced and the frequency spectrum will become even wider, but it is - even though our perception often tells us so - never a huge difference. Even so, right after the first notes we looked at each other and smiled. The rendition of Exit North became more expressive, more fluid, and more confident, as if the proverbial curtain had been drawn. It now sounded like we were standing next to the piano instead of at a few meters distance. Leifur James' track sounded bigger and wider, and the speakers seemed to disappear from the sound stage even more. The bass became more powerful and its tones took on a different, more transparent feel. Suddenly we heard that the punch of the electronic kick drum consisted of multiple separate pulses. In other words, we were drawn into the music (a lot) deeper.



So...

Taking the expected improvement from further burn-in into account, we felt confident to conclude, at that time, that the ChordBurndy surpassed the standard Burndy version by Naim on all important aspects. More expression, more timbre and texture, more spaciousness, and above all more musical involvement. The price is - let's not beat about the bush - quite high. But even at the price level of the equipment that you use it for, it gives such a clear improvement of all the musical traits that make Naim so attractive that we cannot (and will not) hide our enthusiasm; the ChordBurndy is the ultimate connection for this application.



Music and Information

More information and prices about the Chord Company Burndy cables can be found in our online store:

[ChordBurndy cables](#)

Qobuz

[Leifur James - Angel in Disguise](#)

Bandcamp

[Exit North - Book of Romance and Dust](#)

Tidal

[Leifur James - Angel in Disguise](#)

[Exit North - Book of Romance and Dust](#)

Spotify

[Leifur James - Angel in Disguise](#)

[Exit North - Book of Romance and Dust](#)





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