

# Soundbites - Black Knight Figure of 8 Powercord

Neville Roberts



**Black Knight Figure of 8 Powercord - £69.99 for a 1m length cable + £20 for each additional 0.5m**

The new Black Knight Figure of 8 Powercord is the latest addition to the I. M. P. Audio range of mains power cables. All of their Black Knight Powercords are fitted where appropriate with inline suppressors, which combat electrical spikes. They are also treated with Caig Deoxit DN5 deoxidizing contact enhancer for cable and connectors and they are all subjected to advanced pre-burning-in on the Audiodharma Pro2.5 Cable Cooker, which means that all the benefits will be realised from straight out of the box.

This power cable is designed for equipment that requires a "Figure of 8" or IEC-320 type C7 2-pin mains connector. The 2 conductors are made from 2.5 stranded 50x0.25 ultra pure oxygen-free copper, which is insulated with a special low smoke zero halogen (LSZH) polymer compound. These 2 conductors are twisted together (1 twist per 25mm) and bound together with 2 layers of microscopic PTFE tape. This bundle is covered with aluminium foil tape and a tinned copper braid. The braid is earthed to the mains plug to provide good RFI/EMI rejection. At the component end of the powercord is a high quality "Figure of 8" plug and a similar high quality UK mains plug terminates the other end. The pins on the mains plug and the internal 10amp fuse have been highly polished to stop micro-arcing as this is believed to be another potential source of noise. The powercord plugs and fuses have all been subjected to a deep cryogenic treatment in addition to the DN5 treatment. The fuse also gets a extra treatment with Caig Deoxit Gold GN5 for plated metal surfaces to improve conductivity and stabilize connections between similar and dissimilar metals. Finally, the powercord is subjected to a 72 hour pre-burn-in on the cable cooker. Phew!

So – how does it sound? One of the nice things about mains cable testing is that they are pretty easy to swap between types and a perfect candidate for this test was to replace the supplied "Figure of 8" mains lead on my Technics RS-B665 cassette deck with the Black Knight powercord. Running with the Black Knight lead resulted in a perceptible reduction in background noise, including the spikes generated by refrigerators and other electrical equipment. This reduction in the noise floor gave rise to a clearer and cleaner sound. There was also a noticeable improvement in the overall refinement across a wide range of music and a discernible ease in the way music was reproduced when compared to the standard lead. Recommended!

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