



# Computer Audio Design USB II-R

**WINNER**  
USB CABLE



**C**omputer Audio Design helped change how audio enthusiasts viewed USB thanks partly to its USB II cable. That cable has evolved into the USB II-R. Like the original, the exact details of the cable's construction remain a closely guarded secret, but also, like the original USB II, it is designed to address voltage noise and reduce unwanted RF noise from being passed from the source to the DAC.

Visually, the new cable shares the same separated +5V wire with its predecessor, but CAD has reworked every aspect of the cable to produce the USB II-R. In the process, the company improved the power ground filtration and upgraded the common-mode rejection choke used in the cable's signal conductors.

Our test, conducted by Andrew 'Harry' Harrison, showed the USB II-R to surpass even USB cables with higher price points in outright performance terms. It offers a significant improvement in musical clarity, spatialisation, and instrument placement. The cable produces one of the most analogue-like sounds produced by digital cable systems, erasing digital artefacts and preserving the music's sense of realism. As the company suggests, the CAD cable acts as a firebreak against RF noise, allowing for a more immersive listening experience.

Harry concluded his review by saying, "The USB II-R is now the cable that can preserve the most authentic account of the music so far, acting almost like an analogue conduit from PC to DAC. Against any known contender, this winner takes them all."

Reviewed in Issue **217**

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