



Aardvark Classic

**HIGHLY COMMENDED
NETWORK FILTER**



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Of the many network filters that have appeared recently, the diminutive Aardvark (now Aardvark Classic) in-line filter from Argentina was one of the more striking. It couldn’t be simpler to use; the RJ45 connector on the captive lead on one side of the Aardvark goes into your streamer or server, and the Ethernet cable it plugs into goes to your router. The standard Aardvark is small enough and affordable enough to be used in the back of any audio product with a network connection (a slightly larger Ultra Aardvark has just been announced... and what the world needs right now is more Ultra Aardvarks). Aardvark’s website suggests the female end of the Aardvark (the bit in the box) is transformer-coupled. It also has two coils in that box, and they transmit data via inductance, thereby presenting no electrical connectivity between the two coils. That means full passive galvanic isolation. It uses high-grade micro transformers, hard-wired using silver alloy solder and carefully selected cables. The RJ45 connector is selected for its shielding properties. Connector and coils sit in an anti-vibration case.

Stripping away

“It’s very simple,” remarks Alan Sircom in our test. “The Aardvark strips away whatever it is in Ethernet performance that seems to make it appear artificial and flat-sounding compared to CD versions and allows the music to spring back to life.” He added that, “The Aardvark goes a long way to levelling that playing field. It gives a recording life and space and a vibrancy that it was missing before.” He also noted that, “The Aardvark snuffles out noise like its African namesake does with ants and what’s left is clean, vivid and three-dimensional” and “there’s a holographic quality that is sorely missing elsewhere... the Aardvark knows no fear. It’s untroubled by the scale of the recording and is equally comfy used with lower and very high-end equipment.” He concluded the review by saying, “I think this is one of the most surprising products I’ll hear all year... in a good way. The Aardvark might look small and simple, but it knows how to get the most out of networked audio.”

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Aardvark <https://aardvark.com.ar>