

Precious Diamond

Tellurium Q's latest loudspeaker cable takes their range to another level, says Jon Myles.

Tellurium Q has been on an upward trajectory since launching its first product just five years ago. The natural coherence and transparency of its Black loudspeaker cable raised eyebrows with reviewers and listeners around the world – as did the company's absolute refusal to reveal any details about its construction.

The reason for the secrecy was two-fold; for a start Tellurium Q founder and designer Geoff Merrigan didn't want anyone else copying their work and secondly he was confident enough in their ability to allow customers to simply try out the cables and make their own mind up on how good they were without any of the technical mumbo-jumbo that surrounds some other cables.

So confident, in fact, that most Tellurium



Q dealers offer a money-back guarantee to any customers who are not completely satisfied. Not that this happens very often – which doesn't surprise me, having been blown away by their latest Ultra Silver cables earlier this year (Five Globe review, Hi-Fi World June 2015).

But now Geoff and his team have upped the ante with their latest creation – the Tellurium Q Silver Diamond which costs a not inconsiderable £804 per metre (but more of that later).

In looks it's very much like the Ultra Silver, comprising a sturdy, flat ribbon design with the conductors sheathed in a mesh braid and terminated with spades or banana plugs.

As ever, there's no indication of internal cable geometry or the materials used in the construction. Going by the name you'd probably guess there's at least some silver and probably tellurium involved. But then again, maybe not.

Whatever it is we'll never know – but as Tellurium Q say, it's ultimately the sound that matters.

SOUND QUALITY

Different cables can do different things to hi-fi systems; darken the sound, smooth out or accentuate the treble, bring subjectively heavier bass etc. The Silver Diamonds don't do any of this. To my ears they instead

act as a wide open channel between the amplifier and loudspeakers – essentially letting more of the musical information flow through.

On Jean Francaix's 'Petit Quatuor Pour Saxophones', for example, there's an incredibly expansive acoustic and lifelike presentation, with the tonal differences of the soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophones perfectly differentiated. The transparency and resolution of the tiniest details – even down to the intake of breath of one of the players – raised the hairs on the back of my neck. Similarly the Jesus And Mary Chain's feedback-drenched 'Psychocandy' – where the whole soundstage seemed to open up before me.

I could hear the various layers of the sound, from the booming bass drum to the highest guitar note – and everything in-between – locked absolutely correctly in its own space. Not only that, the Silver Diamonds also seem possessed of tremendous energy, transmitting all the drive of the group in full flow.

They throw a holographic soundstage. With Kraftwerk's 'Minimum-Maximum' I could place a particular synth line from 'Neon Lights' exactly one foot to the side and two feet in front of the speakers.

The more I listened, the more convinced I became that the Silver Diamonds were actually showing up many of the deficiencies in other cables by acting transparently as a conduit for the signal. As such they

allow the entire frequency spectrum to be heard in full resolution without any harshness – unless it happens to be there on the recording in the first place.

Admittedly, £800-a-metre may seem a lot to spend on a set of loudspeaker cables. But I'd say that the Silver Diamonds actually stand comparison with rivals costing significantly more, such as Nordost's Frey 2 (£1800 per metre) which – while excellent – to my ears lack some of the unforced naturalness of the Silver Diamonds.

You don't need to own the highest of high-end systems to hear the difference these cables make. During the course of the review I used them with equipment ranging from the relatively budget end of the market to components costing many thousands of pounds. Never once did they fail to improve the sound.

In fact in each case the overall effect was akin to switching from listening to a track on CD to hearing it in its full 24bit/192kHz high-resolution glory – more detail, more depth, more resolution.

CONCLUSION

Tellurium Q have surpassed themselves here. It's often said all cables colour the sound of a system to some extent, but the Silver Diamonds do it to a lesser extent than any other product I've heard so far. As such they provide an open window onto your loudspeakers, amplifier and sources. Recommended without reservation.

TELLURIUM Q SILVER DIAMOND £804 PER METRE



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best.

VERDICT

One of the most open, natural and transparent loudspeaker cables you can buy. Brings extra detail, extension and coherence to any system.

FOR

- transparency
- timing
- frequency extension
- coherence

AGAINST

- price

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