

# Totally Wired

Newly released within Tellurium Q's Graphite cable range, Paul Rigby wonders if the Black power cable and Graphite speaker cables can reach the sonic heights that their price demands.



**R**eady to be unleashed on an unsuspecting public, these new cables are made from... they're designed with...their core components are...well, OK, the company won't say. In fact, it makes a point of refusing to declare any specifications. After hearing the inflated science fiction from some of its competitors that's probably a wise move. The point of cables is how they sound, after all.

Reviewed in the last issue of Hi-Fi World, the Black Rhodium Avenger DCT++ is one of the finest mains leads in its price bracket (£663 per 1.5 metres) so was an interesting reference comparison for the Tellurium Q Black (TQ Black) while the Black Rhodium ACT2 speaker cables (£300 per metre) were utilised as references for the Tellurium Q Graphite speaker cables.

## SOUND QUALITY

Taking the power cable first and spinning the Sugababes' compressed to hell CD track 'Stronger' via my Icon CD-X1, I was surprised by the TQ Black's performance. Compared to the Avenger, the TQ Black exhibited a more meaty bass response. In fact, it was almost Brontosaurus-like in its mass. Low frequencies were notable by their heft and weight. What raised the eyebrow, however, was the simultaneous increase in air around the upper mids. The TQ Black provided a new sense of freedom, expression and emotion.

Concomitant with these

advantages was the TQ Black's enhanced clarity, a result of the removal of inherent distortion which allowed detail to emerge. Lastly, instrumental separation was simply astounding. Wide gaps appeared in between each, giving both an outline and profile to each instrument.

Moving to jazz and Freddie Hubbard's 'Open Sesame' on XRCD, the brass tones can overlap on a middling set of cables. Despite the Black Rhodium's excellent performance, the TQ Black eased the instruments further away from each other to produce clear daylight. The enhanced, accompanying clarity giving a great sense of meaning and maturity to the music. Even on solos, the rather poorly positioned piano was no longer swamped by the percussion. The treble shimmered with delicate amounts of reverb that reflected off each cymbal strike while the enhanced bass drove the entire track, enhancing musicality.

The Tellurium Q Graphite Speaker cable (TQG) was first tested with the Sugababes track. First impression was of an extraordinary focus that made the ACT2s sound muddled and confused, in comparison. TQG-driven low frequencies now resembled a layered jam sandwich cake instead of the ACT2's melange of bass notes. The TCQ was able to identify distinct tonal differences while sweeping away the bass bloom that infected the track. Upper mids were also stripped of distortion that allowed the female vocals to shine with a fragile innocence. An added

bonus was a general becalming to the peak limiting, once harsh tones fell to a slight upper mid hardening.

Generally, the amount of clarity that exuded from these cables opened up a swathe of new detail while enhancing current noises enough to force my ears into an aural double take.

Freddie Hubbard's Blue Note, jazz classic never sounded so good. The new clarity allowed his trumpet to relax. His own confidence appeared now to be sky high as he played without any apparent effort, letting the notes flow and encouraging his skill and talent to speak for themselves. Tina Brooks' sax produced a new swinging musicality that gave the impression of a musician who couldn't keep still. Here, upper mids offered a blue lagoon of clarity that the ACT2s just could not match while the extra detail conveyed a sonic story that the ACT2s found foreign. Percussion, meanwhile, was both driving and subtle. Treble was highly effective, drumsticks seemed to, not so much strike the drum skin, but bounce off it. Such was the perceived energy from this part of the extended sound stage.

## CONCLUSION

So, are the new Tellurium Q cables worth the money? Definitely. When combined, the improvement was on the scale of a hardware upgrade. As for the difference in cables? Wholly palpable and easily heard. Frankly? These are the best speaker cables I've ever heard.

### VERDICT

#### TELLURIUM Q BLACK POWER CABLE

No, I don't know what this Tellurium Q cable is made from but, frankly, I couldn't care less – not when it sounds as good as this.

#### TELLURIUM Q BLACK POWER CABLE PER METRE £798 TELLURIUM Q GRAPHITE SPEAKER CABLE PER METRE £462

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### FOR

- bass
- instrumental separation
- clarity
- distortion free

### AGAINST

- nothing

### VERDICT

#### TELLURIUM Q GRAPHITE SPEAKER CABLE

A frankly stunning performance – a rare set of cables that have the ability to transform your entire hi-fi chain.

### FOR

- midrange realism
- focus
- detail
- distortion free

### AGAINST

- nothing