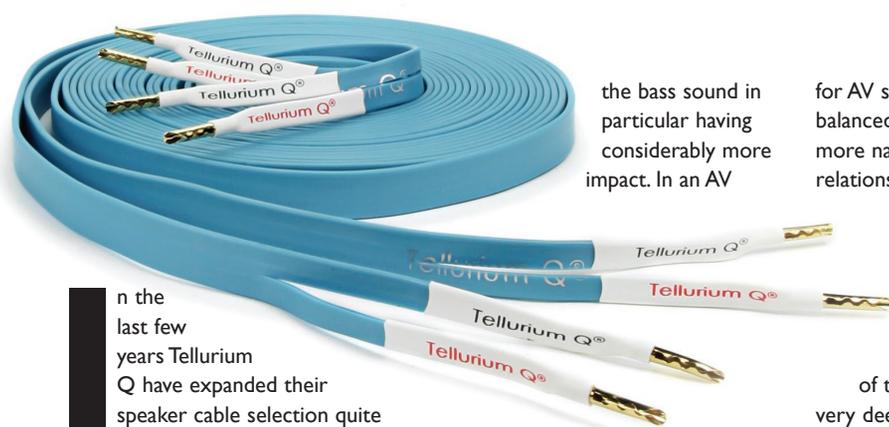


Tellurium Q

Tony Bolton listens to two new models from the Tellurium Q range of speaker cables.



In the last few years Tellurium Q have expanded their speaker cable selection quite rapidly and have recently introduced two new models, the Ultra Blue, retailing at £31 per metre, and the Silver priced at £96 per metre.

As is always the case with this company I was unable to get any details of the architecture of the cables or materials used in the design of either lead, beyond the fact that the Silver model has plugs that are plated with 120 micron of silver. So without more ado I settled down to do some listening.

The Ultra Blue, as its name suggests, is a development of the Blue speaker cable (£16.50 per m.) which is Tellurium Q's entry level model.

Paul Rigby reviewed the Blue in the August 2010 issue of Hi-Fi World and was very impressed with it. I was supplied with an example for comparative purposes and found that the Ultra Blue offered a bigger sound in all ways.

The soundstage was considerably wider than that of the cheaper model and moved the sounds closer to me, almost as though I had moved from the back of the stalls in a theatre to about five rows away from the stage. I felt much more in contact with the music being performed in front of me and able to explore the differing strands more easily.

All of the frequency extremes seemed to have been enhanced,

the bass sound in particular having considerably more impact. In an AV

environment this added to the drama created by a film soundtrack.

Overall I felt that it was a slightly 'rich' sounding cable that will certainly enhance the sound of home cinema systems and in the hi-fi world would beef up the sound of an anaemic sounding system.

The Silver speaker cable has its roots in the Company's first cable, the Black, which received a Hi-Fi World Globe Award in 2010. So again, I had an example of this to hand so that I had a reference point for comparison purposes.

I found the Black (£49.99 per m.) improved upon the performance of the Ultra Blue with a deeper bass sound but mid-band projection was a little more restrained.

This would not be so effective

for AV systems, but for a well-balanced hi-fi system would give a more natural balance to a singer's relationship to the band performing with them.

Moving from this to the Silver cable was very interesting. The latter offered a tighter, almost vice-like grip on the timing of the music, combined with a very deep, although not overblown, presentation of the bass sounds.

The soundstage gained a little in depth as well as width and there was noticeably more air between the performers, creating a more cohesive overall impression.

Vocals lost a certain plummy, especially to lower-pitched female voices and treble detail increased hugely. Crash cymbals demonstrated a more realistic ring to their sound and the multiple harmonics created by hitting one hard were well defined.

Although quite expensive, this cable seems to be able to justify its price with an air of quality to the sound which is often missing, even when spending considerably more than this. Both leads timed well, but the Silver was exemplary in this area and the effect this can have on the perceived drive to music makes it well worth listening to.



TELLURIUM Q ULTRA BLUE SPEAKER CABLE £31 PER M



EXCELLENT - extremely capable

VERDICT

An affordable cable that offers a big sound that will suit lean-sounding systems or the home cinema market

FOR

- rich tonality
- good sense of timing
- wide soundstage

AGAINST

- vocals could be over-projected in some systems

TELLURIUM Q SILVER SPEAKER CABLE £96 PER M



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best

VERDICT

A very well-balanced and smooth sounding cable that will enhance the sound produced by quality electronics

FOR

- excellent timing
- very deep bass
- open sound

AGAINST

- could be too revealing of some systems

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