

Silver Service

Jon Myles plugs Tellurium Q's new Ultra Silver loudspeaker cables into his system – and comes away more than impressed.

Of all the cable manufacturers out there Tellurium Q is arguably the most secretive about the construction of its products.

While other companies are only too eager to wax lyrical about the various exotic materials and proprietary technologies they use, Tellurium Q stay resolutely silent – simply encouraging would-be purchasers to try them and make up their own minds.

So there's not much to tell you about the make-up of their latest Ultra Silver 'speaker cables – except they have the company's trademark ribbon design with the conductors enclosed in a thick mesh braid and terminated with sturdy Z plugs (spade termination is also available).

While this makes for a hefty construction it is conversely extremely flexible so easy to route around furniture or other obstructions.

Of the few things Tellurium Q will reveal about their cables is the fact that they are all engineered to combat the effects of phase distortion – an effect that can smear the sound and lead to errors in timing and accuracy.

That holds true across the entire range – but the difference with the Ultra Silver is that it has been voiced for greater detail and top end air and extension from, say, the Tellurium Q Black.

SOUND QUALITY

Did I say detail and extension? That's probably selling the Tellurium Qs a little short.

Plugged into a Sugden Sapphire FBA 800 amplifier the Ultra Silvers brought a level of clarity and resolution that was something of a revelation.

The Class A Sugden is no slouch in terms of detail but the Tellurium

Qs took its performance to another level.

Listening to the Cuban jazz of Robert Fonseca's 'Clandestino', the speed, control and timing of this busy track was impeccable.

There was no muddying of the sound – instead a simple, pinpoint accuracy.

Fonseca's piano covers the full range and I heard it with all its rich, timbral weight; the soprano saxophone positively soared. The soundstage and focus was unerringly exact with no part of the sonic spectrum taking undue prominence over another. Instead, it was all in perfect balance.

On the ECM recording of Arvo Part's 'Tabula Rasa' the Ultra Silvers really do seem to have extended bandwidth, the reverberation of the strings having an ethereal quality I haven't really appreciated fully before. Listen to 'Cantus In Memory Of Benjamin Britten', the decay at the end of the track seemed to go on forever, so cleanly was it delineated.

Bass is perhaps leaner than on some other cables but it still manages to go deep. Playing The Chemical Brothers 'Block Rockin' Beats' my initial thoughts were that they might be a little light in the low end. But listening closer I realised the essential punch and power was still there – just without any of the unnatural boom that can often be mistaken for musical punch.

This quality also helped bring out extra detail in the midrange by laying a solid foundation that doesn't overwhelm. It also means the Tellurium Qs sound fast and pacy

when the music demands it – never letting the bass slur the tempo of a song.

The only caveat is that at £500 a metre the Ultra Silvers are not cheap – and with their extension and detail you'll really need a good system to hear exactly what they can do.

That aside, they really are exceptional.

CONCLUSION

I'm always wary of labelling any piece of equipment as the best I've heard – but it's hard to escape that conclusion in the case of the Tellurium Q Ultra Silvers.

They really do shine a new light on the sound – not just in terms of midrange detail and high-end extension, but also in the way they pull the various strands together into a coherent whole that times and flows just with absolute musical coherence.

No wonder Tellurium Q are so determined to keep the details of their design under wraps. After all, when they're this good why let anyone copy you?



**TELLURIUM Q
ULTRA SILVER
£500 PER METRE**



**OUTSTANDING - amongst
the best**

VERDICT

Exceptional cable that combines pinpoint timing with detail and frequency extension.

FOR

- timing
- coherence
- detail
- frequency extension
- build

AGAINST

- not cheap

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