

Black & Blue

The stable of cable variants with the Tellurium Q catalogue continues to increase. Paul Rigby reviews the Blue Power Cable and the Black Phono Cable interconnects.



In typical Tellurium Q terms, despite my journalistic nose desperate to find something (anything!) about the nature of these cables and what technology they both might employ, the company steadfastly refused to reveal any of its secrets. The Blue Power Cable is a lower cost variant of its brother, the Black, while the set of interconnects, the Black Phono Cables are the first of their type to be released by the company.

SOUND QUALITY

Reviewing the Power Cables first by spinning a series of rock-based vinyl discs, I found the Blue a different beast to the Black: not better or worse, just different. Where the Black is meaty, powerful, almost guttural in its bass power, the Blue, while maintaining a focused, punchy bass, offered a better balanced presentation for the vinyl front-end, injecting more air into the upper frequencies while draining some of the more claustrophobic bass. This gave the Blue a breezy presentation. Upper mids seemed to relax, taking their time to consider detail and tonal colour.

The Black, while packed with insight, didn't quite have the Blue's delicate foot padding and exploratory inquisitiveness. Everything about the Black was power oriented which, I quickly realised, is where the Black belongs, attached to amplifiers and associated equipment. The Black

releases as much bass through its core as possible, which is ideal for power-related peripherals. The Blue would sound rather weedy here but, attached to a source, the Blue stands tall and rules the roost.

Playing jazz, via CD, the effect was more accentuated. The Blue almost decluttered and cleansed the midrange to produce an outstanding clarity, adding a tremendous sense of balance.

Moving to the interconnects, and comparing them to my reference Avid SCTs, my rock-based vinyl possessed a tremendous soundstage via the Tellurium Qs (TQs), with an ordered air about it. The TQ stereo stage images were solid and stable while the rest of the soundstage benefitted from structurally secure instrumental separation.

Underpinning the rock performance was tremendous bass output – solid, secure, muscley and meaty. There was also a useful draining of distortive frequencies from the midrange and treble allowing them to beam with new found clarity as they sat in greater amounts of space.

for example. Her rather breathy delivery never masked the power that lay under the surface. The CD also didn't sound as loud as the reference Avid for the same gain because distortive drain removed many of those frequencies that acted harshly upon my ear.

CONCLUSION

I've talked a lot about Tellurium Q, of late. I've also sung its praises, constantly. To be honest, I wish I had something to grump about, it would make a change but, when a company gets a series of products 'this right' it's difficult to say anything negative.

Having tested the Blue power cable and now being able to place that in context with the Black, it is evident that Tellurium Q is going about cable design in a totally different way to other cable manufacturers. In fact, if I had to compare it to any other group, I would ally it more with quality power conditioning outfits like Isotek because Tellurium Q is looking at power load and application, designing for specific hardware in specific situations.

The interconnects, in the meantime, support the basic Tellurium ethos. They establish a sturdy, secure bass floor and build upon that groundwork with a distortion-free upper frequencies that offer a balanced contrast. These cables exhibit a dynamic and impressive performance that will have you pinned to your seat.



Turning to jazz on CD, the TQ interconnects brought a new degree of authority to various vocal jazz performers – Helene Merrill,

HI-FI WORLD

VERDICT 
TELLURIUM Q BLUE POWER CABLE £399 FOR 1.5MTRS
 Bass was punchy and upper frequencies provide tremendous insight. A perfect 'source' power cable.

FOR
 - front-end application
 - balanced presentation
 - clarity
 - distortion free

AGAINST
 - nothing

VERDICT 
TELLURIUM Q INTERCONNECT CABLE £285 PER METRE
 Fixing the bass to the floor and drawing upon its solidity, the Black cables push deep into the mix to find new, hidden, detail.

FOR
 - bass power
 - midrange smoothness
 - detail
 - distortion free

AGAINST
 - nothing

Tellurium Q
 ☎ +44 (0)1458 251997
 www.telluriumq.com