

# INTERCONNECTS

## BLACK RHODIUM TWIST/TEMPO

**J**ust released via Black Rhodium, the Twist is what it says, a twisted length of cable to form a low cost interconnect. Simple and pliable, the Twist is aimed at those looking for a first interconnect. The Tempo is rather more expensive and feels it, as it is made from silver plated copper wire insulated in silicone rubber. First in line for sound quality testing was the Twist.

### SOUND QUALITY

Listening tests began via Stevie Wonder's hit single, 'Superstition' on a Fidelity Audio-modified Cambridge Azur 640CVI, Rega Brio-R and a pair of Spondor S3/5R2 speakers perched upon a Magic-Rack shelf and Track Audio Precision 600 speaker stands.

The Twist had an immediate effect. Instrumental placement became clearer and made more sense. There was less apparent crowding as the soundstage was extended in height. Each element of the backing band, people and instruments, took a position that I could pinpoint easily, to great effect. The result was an attractive 3D element added to the soundstage. Complex instruments, such as the Clavinet keyboard, became more engaging because each layer of the performance was better separated, enabling my ear to recognise each and every part.

The brass section had more personality and greater emotional impact, while bass guitar, although not pushed any further from the mix, was easy to spot within its location.

Enhanced lucidity and a lowering of distortion helped produce a clear-cut cymbal outline and generally improved treble.

Spinning Mozart's 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik', the production featured a balanced soundstage so that no one element took charge or dominated. With this string-heavy composition, there is a danger that it can become a little one dimensional but, with the Twist interconnect, the orchestration exhibited a full, sonically poised, presentation while light and shade within the strings were clearer and more discernible to my ear.

I moved to my reference system to review the Tempo, spinning the Wonder CD on my Densen CD player while bringing in Tellurium Q's similarly priced Blue as the cable reference. The Tempo also had a balanced presentation. I never, at any time, felt that the soundstage was being overly dominated by any one element of the sonic mix. Upper mids were clear and at ease on the soundstage. Despite not being quite as extended in the treble area as the Tellurium Q, the Tempo did provide a mass of cymbal information that added finesse to the song as a whole. Wonder's Clavinet may not have

been quite as exhaustively revealing on the Tempo but it did explore the instrument thoroughly. Soundstage and bass, on the Tempo, were similar to the Tellurium Q. The latter gave the track both a solid foundation and a distinct musicality that kept my feet tapping.

Spinning the Mozart track, the Tempo gave my ear a sweet, smooth transcription with strings soaring over the other upper-mid instruments. A slight blending in the Tempo's definition meant that classical strings were a little less delineated, one from the other. The low noise floor allowed a large amount of lower midrange and upper bass to emerge, however. The Tempo remained musical in its presentation and quite enticing when examined in the round.

### CONCLUSION

I had to keep reminding myself just how cheap the Twist interconnect really was. At the price it offers supreme value for money, especially when you consider how much it transforms the basic elements of the soundstage to good effect.

The Tempo is a top flight interconnect that provides a wealth of upper mid detail as well as addressing the low frequency spectrum in equal measure to give the ear one of the most composed cables in its price bracket.

# HI-FI WORLD

**VERDICT** ●●●●●

### BLACK RHODIUM TWIST 1M PAIR

Offering amazing value for money, every new hi-fi user should demo these interconnects.

#### FOR

- orderly soundstage
- lucid treble
- low noise floor

#### AGAINST

- nothing at the price

**VERDICT** ●●●●●

### BLACK RHODIUM TEMPO 1M PAIR

One of the most well-adjusted interconnect designs on the market

#### FOR

- balanced presentation
- broad soundstage
- low distortion

#### AGAINST

- nothing at the price

**Black Rhodium**

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