

Perfect Statement

Tellurium Q has unveiled a new flagship range of cables - and Jon Myles is taken aback by their clarity.

Tellurium Q's founder and chief designer Geoff Merrigan told me some time ago the company's flagship Silver Diamond cables were the pinnacle of what they could achieve and he didn't see how they could be bettered.

Between then and now

something changed - because we currently have the new Statement cable which sits at the top of Tellurium Q's range of loudspeaker cables.

Allied to these are a set of RCA phono interconnects, balanced XLRs as well as a mains lead. It's a big step forward for the brand to introduce a whole new range

such as this - and one which might annoy customers who have purchased previous cables from Tellurium Q under the impression that they couldn't be bettered.

But, as Geoff told me, he did not think that was possible until a thought struck him and he started experimenting with different constructions

Tellurium Q Statement 'speaker cables

and materials. Exactly what these are is hard to define as Tellurium Q is famously secretive about the development and science behind its products.

But, as ever, the devil is in the detail which means the sound quality of all the individual cables.

SOUND QUALITY

Starting off with the new Statement 'speaker cables connected to a McIntosh MC152 and feeding a pair of Martin Logan ESL-X hybrid electrostatic loudspeakers there was a tremendous difference to any other leads I've heard.

These new Statements are starkly revealing. Playing New Order's 'Bizarre Love Triangle' the tempo, scale and overall sense of musicality was immense. What these loudspeaker cables do well is get out of the way and allow you to hear just what is being delivered by the amplifier and loudspeakers.

It is as though a filter has been removed so everything becomes clearer and more distinct. With the opening bars of The Smiths classic 'The Queen Is Dead' album the resonance and detail from Johnny Marr's guitar patterns were astonishing. Having used and enjoyed Tellurium Q's cables in a number of systems the level of openness these new loudspeaker cables provided was truly outstanding.

With 'Way Down In The Hole'

by Tom Waits his gruff vocals became even more guttural and had a greater resonance and presence.

Next I plugged in the interconnects - starting with the RCAs and then moving on to the balanced XLRs. With both there was a noticeable increase in the depth of soundstage. Perhaps not a light and day difference but certainly enough to let you know these cables have a certain synergy about them.

With Arvo Part's 'Cantus In Memoriam Benjamin Britten' the echoing of the violins at the climax

stayed longer and the decay was more vivid. So too was the opening of the same composer's delicate 'Spiegel Im Spiegel'. The violins had a



Tellurium Q Statement RCA interconnects



Tellurium Q Statement Power cable

tonality and presence that few cables manage - mainly because they tend to strangle the sound instead of letting it breath.

Playing The Smiths' 'Queen Is Dead' again with the interconnects in I was struck by the extra level of clarity. Here the vocals took on a much more forceful presence - but the bass lines and drums had more punch, stretching way into the listening room.

More importantly the addition of the interconnects seemed to widen the soundstage of the loudspeakers to create a more immersive experience.

Trying Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side Of The Moon' (24/96) via these connections it was striking how the sound effects from 'Money' ricochet from one side of the room to another. What's more the leading edge of notes took on a much more clean and clear timbre. Playing Jimi Hendrix's 'The Wind Cries Mary' his guitar work was a thing of beauty. It wasn't just powerful but had a subtlety and grace I'd rarely heard before.

Again the impression was that these cables were not throttling the system but allowing it to perform naturally.

There is a caveat however. Cables as open and honest as these can be ruthlessly revealing of any flaws in the replay chain. I plugged in one amplifier and immediately heard its lack of dynamic range and rather muddy sound.

But with good sources and loudspeakers they shine. Taking the McIntosh amplifier and Martin Logans away and replacing them with a Creek 100A integrated amplifier and a pair of Spondor's small AI standmount loudspeakers (see review this issue) revealed just how well these cables can perform with a variety of components.

The Spondors have a large sound for their size but the Tellurium Q cables brought out even more depth and definition from them.

With Massive Attack's 'Unfinished Sympathy' the Spondors attacked harder and with more depth and breadth than on other cables. Their ability to extract the most from the equipment was again on show.

Finally I plugged in the mains lead to the Creek amplifier. I wasn't expecting a huge difference but the change was rather stark. 'Way Down In The Hole' became larger and

more substantial in its presentation. 'Bizarre Love Triangle' was also more vibrant. I could hear little notes that had previously escaped me - and was delighted at just how much more music seemed to flow effortlessly through the system.

Now, I know there are some who doubt the influence of cables on a hi-fi set-up - but these new Statements from Tellurium Q will really let you know what a good wiring loom can do.

CONCLUSION

These new top of the range Tellurium cables set a standard that redefine just how good a cable loom can be. There is no obvious interference, constriction or tonal limits to the sound. They just allow a rather special, free-flowing signal to go between the various components in the hi-fi chain. As such they are highly recommended.

TELLURIUM Q LOUDSPEAKER, INTERCONNECT AND POWER CABLES PRICES

'Speaker cable £2165 per 1.5 metre length
XLR balanced interconnect £4740
RCA interconnect £4320
Power cable £4740



Tellurium Q Statement XLR balanced interconnects

TELLURIUM Q STATEMENT CABLES



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best

VERDICT

These set a new standard that outperforms all other cables we've heard. Highly recommended.

FOR

- openness
- clarity
- lack of smear

AGAINST

- not cheap

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