

TQ to DIN

Paul Rigby reviews Tellurium Q's Statement high-end DIN-to-Phono tonearm cable.



Here's a recent addition to Tellurium Q's Statement range of cables, a DIN-to-phono connector purposed for pickup arms using a DIN output. And it isn't cheap – Statement quality here comes with a £3600 price tag.

As ever with cables from Tellurium Q, the company say little about their construction, but I was fortunate to get a few views on Statement build-technology. According to Geoff Merrigan, TQ's head honcho, "People assume that to get the best performance the 'fastest' conductor – pure silver of something even better has to be used. Which is also one of the reasons for the pointless chasing of nines as I call it – copper to 99.9999999% purity – as if that is the single most important factor for a cable! Surprisingly, to get the most natural sound, it is not just about merely conduction. This is the reason: any conductor from any cable manufacturer on this planet will act as an electronic filter and

by that I mean that the various frequencies relative to one another get shifted with each material they pass through and are also affected by insulators, geometries, shielding etc. It really is a finely tuned balancing act to make sure that you get a natural, transparent transmission. This takes a lot more research than people would imagine. Even down to the solder we use".

One design point to note here, the DIN plug is straight and not angled. Clearance below is something to watch out for.

SOUND QUALITY

Playing a duet by Bing Crosby and Mitzy Gaynor, 'You're the Top', I was impressed by its musical flow and ease. The reason lay in a blend between tonal balance and timing. My brain and ears felt that music sounded 'right' here and, thus relaxed to enjoy.

In basic terms, the soundstage offered a secure frequency discipline. There was no pinching treble here, no midrange edge and no bass bloom. This cable had the basics

sorted. Once the foundations of the overall sound are secure then you can build upon them. Playing catch-up to correct simple faults always results in sonic compromise. None of that was experienced here.

Detail was impressive. Cymbal taps offered body and a presence with a beginning, a middle and an end. I could hear effort and pressure, bringing a sense of realism that was impressive.

On a more high energy track like The Kinks' 'The Village Green Preservation Society', overall balance within the mix was superb. Bass had a massy, hefty and strong kick, while delicate midrange effects such as the string reverb from the rhythm guitar, remained intact.

CONCLUSION

This tonearm cable, being closer to the source than other Statement cables, has a critical job – one it passes with flying colours, lowering noise, increasing dynamic reach and enhancing the structure of the soundstage. It's a useful if expensive upgrade for any compatible tonearm.

TELLURIUM Q DIN-TO-PHONO STATEMENT CABLE £3,600



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best.

VERDICT

Provides a rich, mature and multi-layered sound that will enhance any tonearm and turntable.

FOR

- mature midrange tone
- neutral presentation
- imagery

AGAINST

- price

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