

# Diamonds are forever

Tony Bolton has his definition of good sound revised by the flagship interconnect and speaker cables from Tellurium Q.



**B**ack in the March 2012 edition of this magazine, fellow scribe Paul Rigby went so far as to describe the Tellurium Q Graphite speaker cable as the “best speaker cables I have ever heard”.

Following such a ringing endorsement I was more than a little curious to hear the company’s cables for myself so I arranged to borrow the range-topping Black Diamond leads in both speaker and RCA interconnect form.

Tellurium Q are reticent about revealing the technology employed in their cables so I am unable to tell you much except that the plugs are made to their own specification and include in their construction the rare earth mineral that gives the company its name.

Once they were run-in – a very long job with these cables – I compared them with my resident Philosophy Cables Organon speaker leads and Nebrion interconnects. These have stayed in place on the downstairs system for over eight years because I have not found anything that could match the combination of tight timing, detail, smoothness and texture that these leads allow the system to display.

However, after listening to the Black Diamonds I am forced to recalibrate my perceptions.

They offered everything that I have just listed but in a way that made the Nebrion’s sound a little restrained and masked.

It is fair to say that the Black Diamond interconnects were the most sonically invisible cable that I have ever used. I am, quite frankly, amazed that there could be such a difference from what was already excellent performance to the level at which I am currently listening.

The speaker cable, when introduced into the system, seemed to build on this by matching the smoothness of the Philosophy’s sonic delivery. It also seemed to have a wider perceived bandwidth, a bigger soundstage, and the ability to present transient detail even more effortlessly. Timing seemed noticeably tighter, with notes stopping and starting more precisely. The change was akin to the

difference between driving a car with modern handling and all-round disc brakes as opposed to the softer suspension and disc/drum set ups of cars of days of yore.

The lack of overhang to the beat made rhythmic music seem more natural in timing and the silences between notes more defined.

I could not fault the texture or tonality of even complex sounds such as pianos and harpsichords. They just sounded real and right – as did vocals – with subtle micro-detailing to the sound that lifted it away from the system and left me feeling that it was an independent entity present in my listening space.

I am both surprised and impressed with these cables. They seem to offer everything that I have enjoyed about my current cables but build on their strengths.

In short, I can honestly say the Tellurium Q Black Diamond interconnects and speaker cable are the very best leads that I have ever had in my system.



## TELLURIUM Q BLACK DIAMOND SPEAKER CABLE £630 PER MONO METRE.



**OUTSTANDING - amongst the best**

### VERDICT

A big and quite bulky speaker cable that offers the most natural and composed sound that I have yet had on this system.

### FOR

- smooth, flowing sound
- excellent timing
- wide soundstage

### AGAINST

- nothing, not even price!

## TELLURIUM Q BLACK DIAMOND INTERCONNECT £890 PER M. PAIR



**OUTSTANDING - amongst the best**

### VERDICT

An interconnect that seems to allow the music to flow in a particularly natural way.

### FOR

- smoothness and detail
- excellent tonality
- tactile textures

### AGAINST

- nothing

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