

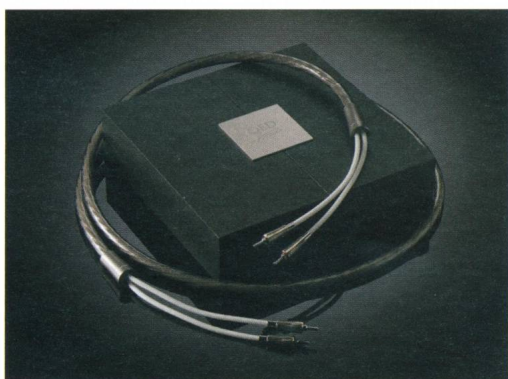
## Speaker cable

### QED Supremus

QED was the company that gave us the ubiquitous 42-strand and 79-strand loudspeaker cables that were used almost universally in 1980s/1990s audio systems. Supremus aims for a more upmarket audience. At £1,160 for a 3m pair, Supremus hardly registers on the super-cable meter in price terms, but delivers a surprisingly cogent performance sonically.

The Supremus design uses 16 silver-plated, 99.999% pure oxygen-free solid-core copper conductors, creating a 10AWG wire, with a cross-sectional area of 6.2mm<sup>2</sup>. The design of the cable itself uses QED's AirCore technology to keep inductance low. In audition, the cable helped give the amplifier better control over the loudspeakers, with the sort of mid-band coherence, and glare-free treble that normally marks out more expensive speaker cable systems. But its overall sense of balance most impressed *Hi-Fi+* Editor Alan Sircom, who said "QED's Supremus gets tantalisingly close to being that One Cable To Rule Them All."

*Reviewed in Issue 151*



## Mains cable

### IsoTek EVO3 Ascension

IsoTek is perhaps best known for its power filters and conditioners, but in fact it has long made mains cables, often highly prized for their performance-to-value ratio. But, although it has long had the wherewithal to go for a more up-market design, it's only now – with the launch of EVO3 Ascension – that the brand shifts into higher gear. This is not simply a 'wingman' mains cable, that one might buy because of the high performance of other devices, EVO3 Ascension is a fine power player in its own right.

Ascension uses deep cryogenically treated silver-plated Ohno continuous cast copper conductors, wrapped in a dielectric of air, with partial FEP contact, with a secondary extruded FEP sleeve. Each conductor assembly is wrapped in Mylar with a further OFC shield before being given a slight rotational twist with FEP tubes of air. We were the one of the first outside of the IsoTek secret design bunker to have a chance to experiment with the EVO3 Ascension, and after 24 hours of running in, it can really deliver the musical goods. This £2,750 cable really lowers the noise floor and lets the soundstage breathe!

*Review pending*

