



QED REFERENCE AUDIO 40 £94.95

Upgrading from budget interconnects in a system is always a good move – and that's where QED's Reference Audio 40 is aimed.

Priced at £94.95 it won't break the bank but should have sonic benefits that make the move worthwhile.

It uses silver-plated copper conductors with different diameters alongside a foamed polyethylene

dielectric which is said to drastically reduce the amount of signal lost to cable capacitance.

QED also fits its own special plugs which have an outer locking cylinder which you screw forward when inserting before screwing back to provide a tight, secure fit. Once done there's little

chance of them coming loose.

In terms of build the QEDs are excellent – the plugs are solid while the cable itself is chunky but flexible enough to fit into tight spaces behind components even when close to a wall.

SOUND QUALITY

Used between my Naim NDX streamer and Supernait 2 integrated amplifier Reference Audio 40 provided excellent resolution. Bass notes on New Order's 'Bizarre Love Triangle'

were full and rounded while Bernard Sumner's vocals were suitably plaintive.

There is added depth and dimension compared to standard interconnects. Nick Cave's 'The Ship Song', for example, had a vast soundstage – seemingly pushing further into the room and moving further left and right from the edges of the loudspeakers.

On Lady Gaga's 'Monster' the descending keyboard is sharply defined showing just how much detail these interconnects can reveal. Time smear was also absent, so fast-paced tracks such as this bounced along with vigour.

With the gentler music of Messiaen's 'Quartet For The End Of Time' the violin parts proved vivid, enabling me to hear the sound of bow on string. There was a supreme even-handedness to how these cables handled every element of the sonic spectrum; they come highly recommended. **JM**

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