

# Supreme Performance

QED's new flagship Supremus loudspeaker cable is a stellar performer, says Jon Myles.

**Q**ED can rightly lay claim to changing the way people thought about the importance of interconnects in their systems with the introduction of its 79-strand loudspeaker cable way back in 1978.

Before then there was a sense of any old bell wire will do – no matter what level of equipment you were using. In the succeeding years, of course, the cable industry has exploded with some cables now costing many hundreds of pounds a metre.

QED still produces the 79-strand (you can buy a 3 metre terminated pair for less than £55) which is a testament to the longevity of its design. Its range now also includes some more sophisticated designs – but its reputation for outstanding performance at value-for-money prices remains.

So when the company produces a new flagship 'speaker cable aimed at taking on rivals costing many times more you tend to sit up and take notice.

It's called Supremus, costs £150 a metre and arrives in a high-quality box with an individual guarantee bearing your name.

However, even more impressive is the construction. Supremus uses two bundles of 16 silver-plated oxygen-free copper conductors in a 6.2mm<sup>2</sup> cross-sectional area. These have also been cryogenically treated to improve conductivity and enhance durability.

The individual conductors are individually insulated by a thin layer of enamel while QED's proprietary Aircore technology is said to keep inductance and capacitance at low levels. In addition specially-designed rhodium-plated terminations are cold-welded to the cables. These have a clever locking design to ensure



maximum surface contact between the plug and terminals.

The construction means the Supremus is a little larger and heavier than some other cables but it is still flexible enough to get round corners. The locking pins are also not just easy to use but provide one of the firmest fits I've yet come across.

## SOUND QUALITY

All cables sound different. But the best add as little of their own character as possible to the system so you can hear the essential qualities of the amplifier and loudspeakers.

That is just what the Supremus does. Fitted between a Naim NAP 250 DR amplifier and a pair of Spondor D7 loudspeakers they had the ability to open up the soundstage by extending each end of the frequency spectrum.

Bass – always impressive via the Naim/Spondor combination – took on a deeper, more tactile quality. The low-end on Tim Hagans' 'Animation/Imagination' melding of jazz and drum 'n' bass seemed to gain an extra octave. Meanwhile, his trumpet sounded crisper, cleaner and devoid of any artificial sheen.

On Janos Starker's forceful performance of Brahms' Cello Sonata

No. 1 his bow work was vibrant, resonance of the instrument shining through, while Gyorgy Sebok's piano had a lifelike quality to it.

There's was a sense that the QED cables were letting the individual components show what they could do with no restriction. It was the same when they were paired with the more expensive McIntosh MCI52 power amplifier where they relayed the gloriously smooth yet powerful qualities of this unit.

With a 24/96 file of the live 'Rank' album by The Smiths the applause of the crowd lost its blurred quality and had a crackle, accentuating the sense of concert liveliness. I've heard other cables do this – but they have cost significantly more than the Supremus.

All of which makes the QEDs something of a bargain in the high-end cable stakes.

## CONCLUSION

Superbly constructed and intelligently engineered, these loudspeaker cables are a new reference in the QED range. They'll bring the best out of your equipment at a price that belies their ability.

**QED SUPREMUS  
£150 PER METRE**



**OUTSTANDING - amongst the best.**

**VALUE - keenly priced.**

## VERDICT

A truly high-end cable without the high-end price tag. Brings an extra dimension to the sound of quality components.

## FOR

- extended low-end
- pristine treble
- quality construction
- solid locking pins

## AGAINST

- nothing

QED  
+44 (0)1279 501111  
www.qed.co.uk