

# Q For Quality

Tellurium Q's Silver Diamond USB cable is a real star, says Jon Myles.

**U**SB cables – they cannot be much too different can they? After all, what they are doing is carrying a string of 1s and 0s in the digital domain, so how can they differ?

Well, they do. Quality of construction, insulation and materials all matter to ensure that digital information arrives correctly. If there's errors you will certainly hear it.

So spending money on the right cable is worth it. But £880 for a metre? Yes, that was my initial thought when unboxing the Tellurium Q Silver Diamond USB cable but as I already use the company's other products in my own system to tremendous effect I pushed the price aside and concentrated on sound quality.

As ever, Tellurium Q gives little information on the specific construction of the cable, simply saying it is part of its Silver range which are said to be uncoloured and acting as a wide, open channel for the music.

and Chord 2Qute DAC I was immediately struck by how much the Tellurium Q seemed to lower the noise floor.

Notes emerged from a much quieter background – the clocks at the start of Pink Floyd's 'Time' were startlingly striking.

On 'Another Girl, Another Planet' by The Only Ones the soaring guitar line sounded more vibrant, having added edge to the leading notes. It wasn't edgy or unpleasant but just natural and exciting.

It's hard to say exactly what the Silver Diamond is doing as it appears to impose little of its own character on

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That said, the construction of this cable is up to the company's usual impressive standards. It's relatively thick but extremely flexible with the connectors at each end firmly attached. Plugging and unplugging it a numerous times showed no sign of stress or strain on the cable.

## SOUND QUALITY

Unplugging my current reference USB cable between a MacBook Pro

and the music, simply passing the music through totally unsullied.

With Kraftwerk's 'Autobahn' (24/96) the synthesisers were shinningly bright, taking on a perceptibly cleaner sound than my usual cable. I could also hear details that I'd previously not noticed. The odd note here, the odd note there – seemingly insignificant but actually making a great difference in portraying the full flow of the track.



Playing acoustic material the Tellurium Q rendered violins, guitar and vocals with a realistic tone and timbre. It seemed to pull the best out of the Chord DAC, which itself is tremendously resolving.

That does mean, though, that if you play some highly-compressed files you'll definitely hear it. An MP3 of Keith LeBlanc's 'Malcolm X - No Sell Out' sounded truly dreadful – lacking power or punch.

But that's as it should be. This cable takes what it is fed and relays it with unerring accuracy.

## CONCLUSION

The Tellurium Q Silver Diamond USB cable is one of the best I've heard. Yes, it's expensive but it also outperforms most other alternatives. If you want to hear the full musical range of your digital files then it's a must.

**TELLURIUM Q SILVER DIAMOND USB CABLE £880 PER METRE**



**OUTSTANDING - amongst the best.**

## VERDICT

A USB cable that does just what it should - pass the signal without imposing any character of its own. Makes music come alive.

## FOR

- amazingly open
- no smear or hash
- construction

## AGAINST

- not cheap

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