Choice EXTRAS

Tellurium Q

Ultra Blue loudspeaker cable

AS CABLE BRANDS go, Tellurium Q is a relative newcomer, yet has still managed to imprint itself in the minds of British audiophiles. The cables have sold themselves on audition, thanks to the distinctly sweet and musical sound. Where others go for searing detail and insight, the TQ house sound is more beguiling and friendly.

This new Ultra Blue loudspeaker cable sits between the company's entry-level Blue, and its distinctly more expensive Black big brother. Unterminated, one metre of this wire will set you back £31; obviously there's a whole range of terminations available, and the cable can also be specified in bi-wire form should you so wish. The company keeps its own counsel on precisely what goes into the Ultra Blue, it does not give the usual long list of bullet points you would expect from rivals. Instead,

you have to console yourself with the fact that it's very well put together, relatively slim and inconspicuous and the sheathing is soft and nonmicrophonic, just as it should be.

Keep on running

I am surprised to find that Ultra Blue needs a little more running in than many TQ products, but after a week or so I begin to hear very much the sound I would expect from this brand. Which is to say that it presents music in a smooth, subtly warm, rhythmically engaging and enjoyably atmospheric way. There's nothing singularly exceptional about this cable, rather it does everything extremely well and seems able to sound even greater than the sum of its parts. It finds the direct line to the music's rhythms and dynamics, and

weaves them together in a wonderfully cohesive way. You find yourself not listening to the hi-fi, but totally immersed in the music, forgetting completely about your system. The Ultra Blue adds subtlety, nuance and a good deal of depth over the cooking Blue, although it doesn't quite have the transparency of the much pricier Black. It's a great cable that will win many friends; make sure you audition it in the context of your own system if you can. **DP**

PRICE £31/m unterminated
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OUR VERDICT