

Quickstep Loudspeaker Cable

REVIEWS



Hi-Fi World

**'Loudspeaker Cable
Of The Year 2016'**

"Open, engaging cables that allow you to hear
exactly what your components are doing."

Jon Myles, Hi-Fi World



ALL CABLES OBEY THE LAWS OF PHYSICS



Graham Nalty

It is easy to dismiss cables as having no effect on the sound of your music, but listening experience proves the opposite. Cables can, and do, sound very different. Sometimes these differences are quite small, sometimes so large as to differentiate between music systems that sound boring and those you can't stop tapping your feet.

“The Foxtrots make me want to dance – and that’s just with J. S. Bach and Vivaldi.”

K. M., Merseyside

An engineering approach might suggest that because the voltage drop over a cable is very small compared to that at the load (amplifier or loudspeaker), it has no effect on sound quality. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Applying The Laws of Physics to audio cables tell us that...

- Magnetic fields will change the current flow in a conductor and modulate the signal
- Radio frequency waves carrying dozens of TV channels can modulate the audio signal creating harmonics within the audio frequency band
- Electric charges flow from a conductor into the insulation when the voltage is high and be released back into the conductor a small time interval later creating time-smeared distortion.
- All pure metals have a specific molecular structure. When tested under identical conditions, different conductors do not sound the same.
- Electric forces between adjacent wires create micro-vibrations within each conductor that, when added to external vibrations of noise, vibrating loudspeakers and other electrical forces, change electrical characteristics of current flow within conductors.

Engineering Cables to Minimize Audible Distortion to Music

A selection of Black Rhodium proprietary cable distortion reducing technology includes:

- Deep Cryogenic Treatment to improve the molecular structure of conductors
- Twisting of stereo interconnect to minimize radio frequency pick up when both return conductors act as a 'loop aerial'.
- Graham Nalty Vibration Stabilisers to minimize the audible effects of mechanical vibration in cables

Designing the best recipes for music

Each Black Rhodium cable is designed by applying the knowledge from extensive listening tests to select the most appropriate technology to deliver the very best sound and value.

The Story of Quickstep

The story of Quickstep starts with some feedback comments made to Black Rhodium by staff at High End Dealer Zouch Audio of Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire.



“Whenever we try any other cable in our system, we always return to Thunder”

Lee Sedgwick, Mike Statham, and Mitch Gardner of Zouch Audio



What Cables Do Zouch Audio Always Go Back To?

At first we thought this was entirely due to Thunder’s large cable thickness of 12 sq. mm. But larger size conductors alone could not be enough to justify the comments from Zouch Audio.

To accommodate the large conductor size of Thunder we built Thunder slightly differently from the other cables.

That difference, we found by our own listening tests, was crucial to sound quality.

We applied the same assembly technique to other cables and the results astonished us, with a much cleaner, clearer sound to the music played. We call this method of assembly ‘Thunder Build’

Hand Built Cables

Thunder Build cables are extensively hand built because this way we can hear the beauty of our music in all its glories far better than we can achieve any other way.

Black Rhodium Quickstep is terminated with the Graham Nalty Legacy Range GN-1 ‘Straight Line Contact’ plugs.

GN-1 plugs are plated in rhodium because we find its sound more satisfying than any other.

The ‘Straight Line Contact’ of the GN-1 connector delivers a musical experience that we are unable to enjoy as much with other types of speaker connector.



Thunder Build assembly and GN-1 Straight Line Contact’ plugs create a cable that, in simple terms, plays music beautifully.

Enjoy your music.



BLACK RHODIUM QUICKSTEP SPEAKER CABLE

HIGHLY
Hifi Pig
RECOMMENDED

Black Rhodium Quickstep Loudspeaker Cable

By Janine Elliot

Janine Elliot cuts a rug with the Black Rhodium Quickstep loudspeaker cables costing £400 for a 3m pair

BLACK RHODIUM QUICKSTEP SPEAKER CABLE



I have always enjoyed listening to Black Rhodium products, having sold them as well as using them in my systems, particularly the now discontinued Rhapsody. Their clear portrayal of the music got me inspired, particularly the higher frequencies, and use of silver making them particularly good on my valve gear. Set up by Graham Nalty, he has been involved in the design and development and marketing of audio products since 1975 including amplifiers, cables and now components. The Black Rhodium factory is set in Derby where they use selected components and materials with a proven record for sound quality enhancement.

The name Black Rhodium itself was originally a stereo interconnect in which the wire was plated in rhodium, but the name Black Rhodium was arrived at when a particular wire turned black with oxidation, but remained a shiny finish where it had been plated in rhodium. The new Black Rhodium Quickstep loudspeaker cable was inspired by their Thunder cable and uses the same conductor as Foxtrot but is now fitted with the gorgeous looking Graham Nalty Legacy Range GN-1 straight Line Contact rhodium plated plugs (the Foxtrot uses their gold plated Z plugs). Indeed, they developed Quickstep and Harmony due to a customer telling them

that whenever they tried any other cables they always went back to Thunder. That got Graham thinking that Thunder had special properties that the others did not;

“I isolated the differences between Thunder and the other Black Rhodium cables and built a test cable using these features. I then used the same principles to design Quickstep and Harmony, plus a number of other cables”.

On paper, Rhodium might not have such good conductivity as copper or silver, but Graham chose it because he believes it gives the best sound quality, reproducing the speed of the music better and making the music more exciting and dramatic, and revealing much more of the music. In my tests, that speed, excitement and detail of information was certainly profound. Graham once tested interconnects in which the same wire was plated in gold, palladium, ruthenium and rhodium. Rhodium came out best, with palladium and ruthenium about the same, and gold last. To coat the whole of Quickstep with rare metals would be extremely expensive, and therefore silver-plated copper is used, and which works extremely well. Today’s value rhodium is about \$650 for troy ounce (it hit \$10,000 at one point in 2008), whereas

silver is \$19. Incidentally, copper is around \$4500 for a tonne!

Build and Tech

Black Rhodium products have always been keenly priced, showing that excellent quality of build and audio quality can be obtained without selling the house. At £400 for a 3-metre version of Quickstep this is highly competitively priced both in terms of the looks and sound quality achieved. What immediately got me interested in the Quickstep was the flexibility of the cable itself, something that is vital for the orderly homeowner. For two pounds extra the cable braid is also available in white, yellow, red, green or blue if black doesn’t match with your furniture. A lovely thought. Designed to reject RFI and EMI interference as well as vibrations, the cable worked adequately surrounded by all the other cables in my set up. The construction includes the use of two separate and complementary materials to effectively dampen mechanical vibrations. The science of cable making is very complex, not just about the metal or dielectric, and more than just scientific equations concerning L, C and R. I still wonder why some people can still say that all cables sound the same. With all else being equal the lower the capacitance the higher the inductance, and in a crossover capacitors

BLACK RHODIUM QUICKSTEP SPEAKER CABLE

Whilst the bass wasn't over pronounced it had a sense of energy that many speaker cables are unable to convey well

block low frequencies and let high frequencies get through. The Quickstep having conductors further apart has an excellent low capacitance at around 80pF for the 3 metres, but the bass is still surprisingly tight and full, and the treble extended and fast. Indeed, cables can work much like your crossover, so it is essential that that you select one to work best with the rest of your equipment. The Quickstep has excellent details and speed particularly in the higher frequencies. Bass was surprisingly detailed and quick. ‘Transient Phase Distortion’ and ‘Proximity Effect’ distortion are reduced by using thick insulation which effectively increases the distance between conductors, as well as the braided cable design which reduces the magnetic field created by the two wires. The conductor itself comprises of 16 x 0.2mm diameter silver plated copper wires with silicone rubber insulation. Understanding the design of the cables helped me to back up my audible observations, and whilst, yes, the low capacitance and choice of materials meant the top end would be better, there was no loss of bass.

Sound

Using my Class-A Krell set-up initial listening gave a brilliantly clear and exciting soundstage playing the Polish Classical brass album “Trombastic Tutti Virtuosi” from For-Tune Productions. Silver works well on brass instruments, and this combination gave an exciting and lively rendition of the music.

Whilst the bass wasn't over pronounced it had a sense of energy that many speaker cables are unable to convey well. Imaging is also very detailed and tightly placed within the soundstage, with all music played without stress. David Bowie's “The Next Day” is a real test of detail. This is not my favourite Bowie album but I now felt I wanted to listen to more of it. I always find there is too much compression and limiting in this album with all instruments competing for supremacy and some cables can just exacerbate the situation and make the whole muddy and complex. Quickstep was like cleaning your glasses after they have been covered in finger marks. Everything just opened up and I really began to enjoy these cables. Track 4 “Love is Lost” was particularly well defined and more human, though I did miss some of the “edginess” that gives the track the

emotion and pain that I felt was being portrayed in this track. Listening to the new 180g Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald (Clare Teal, The Syd Lawrence Orchestra) opened up the sound significantly, particularly in terms of separation of the instruments within the soundstage, as well as improving transients of the brass instruments.

Conclusion

Quickstep is keenly priced at £400.00 for a 3m pair complete with the GN-1 Straight Line Contact rhodium plated plugs. For sound per pound this is an excellent choice for the audiophile offering a detailed soundstage with exceptional speed, and a sound that was very open and effortless. Well worth listening to.

AT A GLANCE

Build Quality: Excellent construction and good looking GN-1 straight Line Contact rhodium plated plugs

Sound Quaity: Very controlled and extended top frequencies with an effortless but exciting portrayal of the music throughout the full audio range

Value For Money: An extremely good set of results for the price. This is exceptionally good value, though if the price is too high then the cheaper Foxtrot uses the same cable though different plugs

Pros:

Excellent speed of top frequencies.

Openness

Effortless portrayal of the music

Excellent quality of build

Cons:

Some may find the bass is not prominent enough.

Price:

£400.00 for a 3m pair

Paul Rigby – The Audiophile Man

BLACK RHODIUM QUICKSTEP SPEAKER CABLES: BY THUNDER, THEY'RE RELATED!

Posted on 2nd December 2016



Looking for a pair of mid- to high-range speaker cables? Paul Rigby takes a close look at Black Rhodium's Quickstep cables

Black Rhodium offers an array of cables at varying prices but was recently drawn to dealers comments on the continuing popularity of its Thunder cable product. Despite the release of other cables that might have been equally appealing. According to company owner, Graham Nalty, “We examined the differences between Thunder and our other cables and made some tests. We identified certain exclusive features of Thunder and we have designed a range of loudspeaker cables based on those exclusive design features.”

Hence the entrance of Quickstep fitted with Graham Nalty Legacy Range GN-1 straight Line Contact rhodium plated plugs and hand built at the Black Rhodium factory in Derby.

Some of those features includes an added inter-conductor distance due to braid over conductor. The idea being to reduce magnetic distortion while the hoped for reduction in Transient Phase Distortion was handled by using thicker insulation than is usual in speaker cables, increasing the distance between conductors and thereby reducing the magnetic field seen in each conductor wire as a result of the magnetic field created by the current in the other conductor wire.

The cable also uses RFI suppression technology originally developed for higher end cables with the intention of protecting the signal wires from picking up radio frequency interference generated from radio, Wi-Fi, mobile phones and central heating systems. Additional security of the connection between the cable and plug is provided by a set screw that clamps the outer insulation of the wire. Question is, do they sound any goo?

SOUND QUALITY

I began the sound tests with slice of disco funk from Earth, Wind & Fire's Let's Groove on CD. This group was a busy outfit on stage and within their arrangements, there is plenty going on here and it takes quite an hi-fi system to sort everything out. Even behind the conglomeration of the principle voices and instruments, there are plenty of subtle and tiny effects that pop up here and there.

My first impression of the Quicksteps lay in the lower frequencies. The cables offered an organic bass. There are contemporary models out there that treat bass in a slightly digital, if not clinical, fashion The Quicksteps avoided this trap by retaining the weight of the bass but softened the punch, removing the rather solid state, dry and soul-less, impact and introducing a slightly softer, almost valve-like impact that is much more akin to how a real drum sounds.

This tonal realism was also evident in the many subtle effects heard within the mix such as the introductory bell sweeps at the introduction. Cables with a rather harsh delivery can introduce a brittle effect. Almost as if someone is not gently tapping bells but breaking large icicles. The Quickstep cables presented the bells as a soft sweep which was very pleasant indeed.

The signature backing brass section also benefited from this effect. The trumpets retained their attack, providing sharp interjections throughout but they sounded like they were played by humans instead of a robot, there was a distinctly natural aspect to their presentation.



Finally, the organic and more open approach to the delivery gave the lead vocal and associated harmonies an added richness, providing enough information to enhance the emotional impact of the song.

Turning to vinyl and Ella Fitzgerald's take on the Latin-esque classic, Hernando's Hideaway, the rather organic approach to the Quicksteps was exactly what the backing orchestra needed. Instead of the potentially stilted and rather stiff limbed approach that a clinical cable sound can give, the more easy going Quicksteps allowed the orchestra to swing its socks off, giving the presentation a positively sexy, swerve. Fitzgerald's naturally jazz-like delivery fitted in to the swing-time very easily. The ensemble, as a result, sounded like they were having a ball and enjoying themselves immensely.

More specifically, I was pleased to hear how the secondary percussion responded to the Quicksteps. Both the xylophone and the castanets had a warming, wooden tone but still managed to be sharply responsive with that essential accurate bounce of wood being struck.

CONCLUSION

For the price, the Black Rhodium Quicksteps were surprisingly balanced in tonal terms while the design offered a naturalistic reflection of the music that was entertaining and supremely musical in its approach. These are cables that never dominate but allow music to flow.

BLACK RHODIUM QUICKSTEP SPEAKER CABLES

Price: £400 for 3m

Website: www.blackrhodium.co.uk

Tel: 01332 342233

GOOD: balanced mids, naturalistic presentation, tonal realism, bass authenticity

BAD: nothing

RATING: 8



Harmony Quickstep

Jon Myles finds Black Rhodium's new Quickstep loudspeaker cables and Harmony interconnect are a potent combination.



Black Rhodium Quickstep.

Black Rhodium owner and chief designer Graham Nalty knows a thing or two about hi-fi cables – as evidenced by the number of awards his company's range of products have received.

The brand has built a loyal following over the years and makes much of the fact that the majority of its cables are designed and hand-built at its premises in Derby in the East Midlands.

So when Graham announced he'd come up with a new loudspeaker cable and interconnect pairing which are some of his most sophisticated yet it, obviously piqued our interest. Especially when the design is based upon the outstandingly open and clean-sounding top-of-the-range Thunder offering.

Now, a 3 metre terminated pair of Thunder cables will set you back almost £5000 while the new Black Rhodium Quickstep comes in at a more affordable £400 for the same

length. However the two do share some design elements.

Accompanying the Quickstep and designed with similar characteristics is the Harmony interconnect which costs £320 for a 0.5 metre terminated pair or £370 for a 1 metre length.

First, the Quickstep. It's available in a range of colours – black is standard but blue, green, red, white and yellow are all available for a small premium – and comes equipped with the proprietary Graham Nalty Legacy

REVIEW

Black Rhodium Harmony.



Range GN-I rhodium-plated straight line connectors which are eminently sturdy and provide a firm fit.

Like much of Black Rhodium's range, great emphasis is placed on the suppression of mechanical vibrations and the pick-up of radio frequency interference from the likes of radios, wi-fi networks, mobile telephones and even central heating systems.

With the Quickstep this involves

"the backing instrumentation has a depth and breadth to it - allowing you to hear exactly what the individual players are doing"

the use of two separate and complementary materials in the construction to dampen micro-vibrations which can muddy the sound as well as thicker, braided insulation than found in most loudspeaker cables and increased distance between the conductors to reduce the magnetic field in the wire.

The Harmony interconnect employs a similar construction with the internal wires insulated in silicone rubber, for its low dielectric loss. It also comes fitted with gold-plated Hourglass Silhouette RCA connectors for long-life.

All this technology means the cables are a little thicker than many similarly-priced rivals but to their credit they are flexible and easy to fit

into even the tightest spaces at the back of a hi-fi rack, making installation easy.

SOUND QUALITY

Having listened to the range-topping Thunder cables a few months ago, I was impressed at how similar in presentation the Quicksteps are. They are not quite as crystal clear but they do share some attributes – mainly the sense that they let the

music flow in an uninhibited nature without adding too much character of their own.

Used between a Creek Evolution 100A integrated amplifier and a pair of Martin Logan ElectroMotion ESL X electrostatic loudspeakers (see Noel Keywood's review this issue) they had excellent detail and an ability to let me hear what the components were doing.

Jacques Brel's voice on 'Ne Me Quitte Pas' from the Infiniment CD collection was especially well-defined. There was no sense of any smear or cloud to the vocals but instead a naturalness to the presentation. The catch in his voice when he starts the final verse also came out of an almost eerie silence,

adding to the emotional impact.

Behind that the backing instrumentation had depth and breadth, allowing me to hear exactly what the individual players were doing.

Adding the Harmony interconnects to the mix between the CD player and the Creek built on this. There was an obvious synergy as they have a similar characteristic which is open, involving and exceptionally clean.

Listening to guitar on Pierre Bensusan's 'Altiplanos', the leading edges of notes were picked out starkly, while it was easy to pick out where he had changed the tuning of his instrument on some tracks.

Not all cables at this price will give you such an insight. The only downside is that if you are looking for cables to tune a system that is perhaps not ideal, these Black Rhodiums are probably not for you.

They will not mask problems by accentuating bass or smoothing off treble response in sharp components. They are a lot more honest than that – which is a good thing if you are happy with your source, amplifier and loudspeakers as they have the ability to bring the best out of them at a reasonable price.

CONCLUSION

Black Rhodium's new Quickstep loudspeaker cables and Harmony interconnects come highly recommended. They get out of the way of the signal in a way few others do at this price and allow you to hear the music unsullied and in all its glory.

HI-FI WORLD

BLACK RHODIUM QUICKSTEP LOUDSPEAKER CABLE £400 3 METRE TERMINATED PAIR

HARMONY INTERCONNECT £320 0.5 METRE TERMINATED PAIR



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best.

VERDICT

Open, engaging cables that allow you to hear exactly what your components are doing.

FOR

- crystal clear sound
- construction
- flexibility
- reduce smear

AGAINST

- won't flatter poor components

Black Rhodium
+44 (0) 1332 342233
www.blackrhodium.co.uk

Black Rhodium Foxtrot speaker cables



HAND MADE AT Black Rhodium's factory in Derby, the Foxtrot has RFI noise reduction technology to limit the effects of interference generated from computer networks, radios, mobile phones and even central heating systems. Each conductor comprises 16 x 0.2mm diameter plated copper wires, resulting in a conductor of 6mm diameter. The conductors are insulated in silicone rubber of 1.2mm thickness. Gold-plated Z plugs have been fitted to the cables and cable direction is printed on the sleeving at each end. The cable is very flexible making it easy to fit around the perimeter of carpets for a tidy installation.

After giving the Foxtrots a good running in, I start off by listening to Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite*, performed by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. There is an extremely deep and extended drum roll during the opening sequence that tends to be most noticeable when it pauses for a few bars before starting again. During this pause I become aware that the very deep rumbling has stopped. When it is there, it is almost felt rather than heard, and I have a sense that the Foxtrots are perfectly conveying the power and fullness of this drum roll. Further into the recording, the twittering of the strings is so clear and crisp that I can almost identify the individual violins playing in the orchestra.

Love at first sight

Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, played by the London Symphony Orchestra under the baton of André Previn, demonstrates the excellent full sound presentation that is transported to my speakers. The minuet in act one, scene two marks the arrival of the guests. The sudden changes of mood throughout are beautifully rendered, from the loud sections heralding the triumphal entry of each new visitor to the delicate detail of the gentler passages that paint a musical picture of the visitors mingling with the



other guests. Overall, the music is both intimate in the quieter sections and stately with great dynamics than I am used to with this recording.

The forceful opening of the first movement of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* has a rapid change of mood when the solo violin takes over the piece to commence the ocean voyage. It is clear and not at all edgy. The piece then builds to a climax with the whole orchestra playing, creating a sound that is full, luscious and refined.

Cooling things down with Scarlatti's *Sonata* in G major played on the harpsichord, I am really drawn into the performance with the intimate playing of George Malcolm. The silences between the phrases are inky black indicating that the noise floor is kept low, while I also sense that the musical edges are well defined, and the natural decays of each note of the harpsichord add to the overall realism of the reproduction.

For a complete change of musical genre, I turn to some Pink Floyd and a recent recording of *On Noodle*

Street. The bass and drums are punchy, clear and well extended. The guitars take a back seat with this recording and the theme is played on a synthesiser. These instruments blend together perfectly to create a relaxed atmospheric.

Space is the place

I round off proceedings with Ane Brun singing *These Days*. The deep bass and organ that accompany her singing are well positioned behind her. When the echo on her voice is added as the piece progresses, I get a real sense of spaciousness, as though I am listening in a large hall, rather than in my sitting room.

The very affordable Foxtrots certainly deliver a delightfully open and effortless sound from my system. Vocals have plenty of detail and all the nuances of expression are very evident. Imaging and timing are also both excellent. This is a very sophisticated-sounding set of speaker cables and gets a well-deserved five stars. **NR**

DETAILS
PRICE
£275 for a 3m pair
TELEPHONE
01332 342233
WEBSITE
blackrhodium.co.uk
OUR VERDICT
★★★★★

Black Rhodium Tempo stereo interconnects



RESPLENDENT IN ITS bright violet-coloured braided sheath, the design of the Tempo is based very closely on Black Rhodium's older Coda interconnect, but the insulation of the individual conductors has been increased from a thickness of 0.6mm to 1.2mm to reduce Transient Phase Distortion. It is terminated in the Graham Nalty Legacy Range GN-4G RCA plugs instead of the Eichmann Bullet plugs used with the Coda.

The extra edge

The conductors consist of 19mm x 0.3mm diameter silver-plated copper wires. Silicone rubber insulation is used to minimise distortion due to dielectric absorption effects, while the positive and negative cores of the conductors are connected in opposite directions, as Black Rhodium has found this reduces the noise floor, resulting in blacker silences and enhanced reproduction of the natural edges and decays in music.

The GN-4G RCA plugs are gold-plated, line contact connectors to reduce contact distortion. The earth conductor is a single strip of metal fitted into a plastic support to provide a single-point earth return contact while still ensuring a firm fit.

Black Rhodium mentions that it can take as long as 150 hours for its

cables to sound their best, but I find the greatest improvements happen in the first 10 hours of use. I connect them between my preamp and monoblocks, and run them overnight with the monoblocks switched off before auditioning. I start off listening with Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No.2* played by Sviatoslav Richter. The first thing that strikes me is a real sense of the presence of the piano in my room. The orchestra has a superb depth, fullness and openness – the spatial positioning of the instruments is spot on and the piano is perfectly placed at the front of the soundstage. The Tempos really seem to breathe new life into this 1959 Deutsche Grammophon recording.

Jean-Michel Jarre's *Magnetic Fields* has an intoxicating quality where the complexity of the electronic music is quite captivating. When it bursts into the main theme, my room is filled with music of sparkling clarity. The bass is very powerful and the Tempo interconnects are certainly able to convey the full force of the rhythms in the lower registers.

To check out the Tempo's handling of vocals, I choose a CD of two singers – a duet of Barbra Streisand and Celine Dion singing *Tell Him*. The singers are well positioned in front of the orchestral backing and in separate positions close to the centre of the soundstage, as indeed they should be.

Also worthy of note is the orchestra. All the instruments are clearly defined, rather than being a blur of different sounds and the performance is both captivating and very musical.

For some baroque music played on a harpsichord, I turn to a superb recording of JS Bach's *Goldberg Variations* played by Trevor Pinnock. The performance has all the sophisticated elegance that I expect from this recording. The stately first variation, *Aria*, leads into the joyful second variation and both are really tuneful. The tonal complexities of the instrument really come to life in my listening room.

Final fanfare

I finish off with Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto in E Flat* and the solos played by John Wallace are strident, but not overly so, which would make it sound unduly harsh. Instead, the trumpet playing is musical and in perfect balance with the orchestra and I am really drawn into the performance. The mournful second movement, *Andante*, leads nicely to the jubilant final movement, *Allegro*, which is well paced with melodic and virtuosic cadenzas.

These are great interconnects that handle whatever music signal they find themselves carrying between audio components. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE
£260 for a 1m pair
TELEPHONE
01332 342233
WEBSITE
blackrhodium.co.uk

OUR VERDICT

★★★★★

IF YOU APPRECIATE THE MUSIC OF BLACK RHODIUM QUICKSTEP. . . YOU MAY ALSO LIKE;



ALLEGRO 75 OHM DIGITAL AUDIO

Allegro with RCA



Allegro with BNC Canon Musiclink 3.5mm series



"As for the jazz backing? There was a tremendous focus at work here. Every instrument seemed tight and sprightly."



PAUL RIGBY

www.theaudiophileman.com

CANON 3.5mm

"You Guys are good.

Please pass on to your crew at Black Rhodium that I want to say a big thank you. I have to admit, I didn't expect the cable to look this good. And the sound....well need I say anymore?"

A.E, London



CANON 3.5mm - 2 X RCA

"Our customer who have recieved canon musiclink is very happy J he say me that this cable is fabulous on his audio system."



Black Rhodium Export Distributor

STYLUS TONE ARM CABLE



"The Stylus allowed my SME IV to really come to life, the enhanced clarity and accuracy not only helped the music to deliver a sonically more interesting performance but the lower distortion and noise meant that I could now lower the gain of my phono amp and increase the gain of my pre-amp to achieve the same volume producing a more relaxed yet still vibrant performance. Is this the ultimate SME phono cable?"

PAUL RIGBY

www.theaudiophileman.com

Black Rhodium Stylus tonearm cable



ONE OF THE most overlooked aspects of any phono pickup arm is the cable from the arm to the phono preamplifier. It has to transport that tiny signal of just a few microvolts – the direct, unamplified electrical output from the cartridge – for over one metre, before it reaches the phono stage. Cables can influence the sound of line-level (2V) signals, so just think of the potential for altering just a fraction of that voltage. That's why good arms come with good cable, and if they don't you should change it.

Black Rhodium's Stylus cable is designed for precisely this. It's a common DIN fitting so will work with many tonearms and comes in standard 1.3m lengths (with other measurements available). It is terminated with rhodium-plated plugs, which give a cleaner and less corroded contact. There's a VS-2 version for an additional £150, which

adds an 85g vibration stabiliser to damp mechanical resonances and DCT-treated connectors.

Bet on Black

Sonically, the Stylus seems typically Black Rhodium, which is to say it is warmer and more spacious than many but lacking that 'razor's edge' sense of transient speed that some cables have. That's not to say it's slow at all, it's just you don't get detail fired at you in a showy or over explicit way. Instead, I find myself

relaxing and enjoying the musical presentation. There's a subtle silkiness to the treble and a generous bass. Music gels well and sounds highly engaging. Soundstaging is very good too, with a greater sense of scale to the recorded acoustic compared with stock tonearm leads. The Stylus is a little expensive, but if you're running a serious arm and cartridge the improvements it brings suddenly makes it seem good value, the VS-2 version especially so. **DP**

WHAT BRITAIN'S LEADING HI-FI REVIEWERS SAY ABOUT QUICKSTEP

NATURAL PRESENTATION

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Paul Rigby theaudiophileman.com

CLEAR AND OPEN SOUND

"Quickstep was like cleaning your glasses after they have been covered in a finger mark. Everything just opened up and I really began to enjoy these cables"

Janine Elliot, **Hi-Fi Pig**

"Open, engaging cables that allow you to hear exactly what your components are doing"

Jon Myles, **Hi-Fi World**

EXCITING AND MUSICAL PRESENTATION

"The organic and more open approach to the delivery gave the lead vocals and associated harmonies an added richness, providing enough information to enhance the emotional content of the song"

Paul Rigby theaudiophileman.com

"Behind that, backing instruments had depth and breadth allowing me to hear exactly what the individual players were doing"

Jon Myles, **Hi-Fi World**

EXTENDED FREQUENCY RESPONSE

"The Quickstep has excellent details and speed, particularly in the higher frequencies. Bass was surprisingly detailed and quick."

Janine Elliot, **Hi-Fi Pig**

The Quicksteps avoided this trap by retaining the weight of the bass but softened the punch, removing the rather solid state, dry and soul-less, impact and introducing a slightly softer, almost valve-like impact that is much more akin to how a real drum sounds.

Paul Rigby theaudiophileman.com

OUTSTANDING VALUE

"They get out of the way of the signal that few others do at this price and allow you to hear the music unsullied and in all its glory"

Jon Myles, **Hi-Fi World**

"For sound per pound this is an excellent choice for the audiophile offering a detailed soundstage with exceptional speed, and a sound that was very open and effortless"

Janine Elliot, **Hi-Fi Pig**



Black Rhodium