

**QED**

Performance Audio 40i RCA interconnect

A RECENTLY RELEASED upgrade to QED's established Performance Audio 40, this RCA interconnect employs the company's Solid Core Complementary Conductors to reduce capacitance by a quarter – compared with the original design – to enlarge the soundstage. The new cable has one OFC conductor and a silver-plated OFC conductor to carry the audio signal to reduce smearing and improve rhythm, clarity and bass control. The interconnect retains the company's ferrite insulation and Anamate low eddy current RCA plugs.

When I reviewed the original Performance Audio 40 (*HFC 403*), I found it had a great top end and excellent timing, but the bass was a tad restrained. Connecting the 40i between my preamp and monoblocks, Khachaturian's *Spartacus* sees a vast

improvement to the bass drums. This time, they don't pull any punches and the performance is big, full and powerful – so the bass has certainly improved. The brass instruments are commanding and the strings are clear without being over bright or harsh.

Going solo

Listening to a solo instrument is an excellent way to check out detail and a lovely LP of JS Bach's *Partita No.2* played on the harpsichord by Trevor Pinnock has superb detail and a real presence in my listening room. There is no hint of muddiness in the harmonics of each individual note

during the louder crescendos. Finally, for some vocals, I turn to a copy-master tape from Chasing The Dragon with Clare Teal singing Cole Porter's *I've Got You Under My Skin* accompanied by the fabulous Syd Lawrence Orchestra. The timing and pace of this swinging piece are superb and once again the realism of the performance is excellent while Teal's vocals – along with each instrument in the orchestra – have a clearly defined position within the soundstage. Overall, the Performance Audio 40 is an excellent interconnect and offers great value for money. **NR**



▶ DETAILS

PRICE
£50 for 1m
WEBSITE
qed.co.uk

OUR VERDICT

