

QED

XT3 power cable

AS THE MORE affordable sibling of QED's XT5 power cable, the XT3 is designed to deliver clean and distortion-free power to your audio equipment. Though it lacks the ferrite jacket fitted to its sibling, it is otherwise similar. The conductors are made from 99.999 percent oxygen-free copper and are sheathed in a Black Pearl outer jacket. The cable is terminated in a UK mains plug at one end (or optionally with a EU Schuko plug) and an IEC C13 connector at the other. The XT3 benefits from QED's X-Tube technology to reduce the 'proximity effect' created when current density builds up in the parts of the conductors that are closest to each other, causing the cable impedance to increase as the frequency or current rises. This effect is relevant even at mains frequency due to power transients

that can result in current spikes according to QED.

With a standard mains 'kettle' lead connected to my valve preamp power supply, I play a copy-master tape of Mendelssohn's *Octet* performed by The Locrian Ensemble. The dynamic range, instrument positioning and overall sound quality is superb and very much as I remembered from when I was lucky enough to attend the live recording. I then swap the kettle lead with the XT3 and play the tape again. This time, I am aware of a definite improvement in the location and focus of the instruments in my listening room.

Flower power

Repeating the comparison with a recording of Barbra Streisand singing *You Don't Bring Me Flowers* shows how the XT3 offers up a more refined and delicate rendition of Streisand's



sensitive singing during the opening section. I am also aware of better control and authority when she winds up the volume as the song progresses, with improved clarity of her voice during the crescendos. The overall performance with the XT3 is very involving and sophisticated.

The modestly priced XT3 really does seem to free up my equipment to operate at its best. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE
£79 for 1m cable
TELEPHONE
01279 501111
WEBSITE
qed.co.uk

OUR VERDICT

