

QED

Reference Audio 40 interconnect

DETAILS

PRICE
£120 for 1m
TELEPHONE
01279 501111
WEBSITE
qed.co.uk

OUR VERDICT

AN UPGRADE TO QED's Performance Audio 40i RCA interconnect (*HFC 481*), the Reference Audio 40 is fitted with QED's Analoc2 RCA plugs. The plug bodies are manufactured entirely from non-conductive materials to minimise eddy currents. The Analoc2 design, like its predecessor, features low-bulk, high-purity copper connectors and low-mass metal barrels. It uses a high-rigidity thermoplastic material for the inner support structure and cable strain relief to eliminate the detrimental effects of eddy currents. Furthermore, the connector has hollow, gold-plated, high-purity copper signal pins to combat the skin effect, while the slip ring used for locking the similarly plated copper coaxial earth connection in place has also been improved.

The cables are made from two

free copper (SPOFC) conductors of different diameters that carry the same audio signal, to avoid any time smearing that might occur with a single audio pathway. A Zn/Mn Ferrite jacket is used within the cordage, designed to absorb very high-frequency noise components outside of the audible band that can adversely affect the micro-timing of the signal.

Lock and load

I connect the Reference Audio 40 between my preamp and monoblocks, and tighten the lock ring onto the sockets. An LP of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No.4 In F Minor* played by the Cleveland Orchestra reveals forceful trumpet blasts during the



opening that are clear and strident, without venturing into being harsh and edge. The powerful bass drum is well extended, punchy and tight. The presentation of the full orchestra is handled beautifully.

With Laurent Garnier's *Desireless*, the pounding bass is very well controlled and the hi-hats clear with excellent timing and precision. In short, the Reference Audio 40 is a really classy interconnect that puts out a refined performance. **NR**