

# Quiescent Peak Analogue Interconnects

KEVIN FISKE CHECKS OUT QUIESCENT'S INTERCONNECTS

KEVIN FISKE

Until I tried Quiescent Technologies' *Peak* speaker cables in my system (last issue) I arrogantly dismissed the suggestion that RFI/EMI and microphony had any meaningful impact on what we hear. Quiescent claims that they are responsible for pollution that destroys timing, dynamics and tonal veracity. The company makes speaker cables and interconnects constructed to mitigate all three intrusions.

For me, room pressurisation, along with timing, dynamics and tonal quality are the audio holy trinity, so when cables claim to support them, I pay attention. When I heard the *Peak* speaker cables I bought them, and to asked for the companion *Peak Interconnects* for testing.

*Peak Interconnects* use solid silver WBT RCA/phono connectors at either end, solid core silver conductors running in a wide Teflon dielectric, with RFI/EMI absorptive material over the Teflon, followed by a braid that mitigates microphony. They cost £820 plus VAT for a 1m pair, and balanced versions are also available for more.

I actually own custom interconnects built similarly but with solid silver ribbon. I must therefore conclude that the notable Quiescent gains are probably delivered by the additional materials

claimed to reduce the impact of RFI/EMI and microphony.

Back-to-back with my regular silver interconnects the *Peaks* have a blacker background and bolder, more assertive dynamics. So much so that I had to turn down the gain on my amplifier by one click to achieve a similar in-room volume. Tonally the *Peaks* are richer and more natural than my regular cables, and timing-wise the results are equally predictable: a blacker background means more recorded sound against the time-base for superior transcription of timing cues.

Some have observed that Teflon used with silver cables is responsible for a certain mildly nasal, thin quality that is most apparent when listening to female voice recordings. The Quiescent cables use a Teflon dielectric yet lack that signature – indeed they deliver voices in a very satisfying manner. Does this support Quiescent's assertion that nasality is a result of EMI/RFI and microphony?

A totally unexpected and additional result of placing the *Peak* interconnects in my system between the DAC and pre-amplifier was that they lowered the noise floor when playing vinyl too. Quite how that could happen is beyond the space allowed by a half page!

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AUDIO EXCELLENCE



# Tellurium Q Black II

PAUL MESSENGER TRIES THE LATEST VERSION OF THIS POPULAR SPEAKER CABLE

PAUL MESSENGER

When the UK distributor Kog Audio first introduced me to Tellurium Q speaker cable, some years ago now, I wasn't at all impressed. That reaction doesn't seem to have troubled Tellurium Q, however, which has gone from strength to strength, according to its website.

It now has lots of upmarket alternatives to the plain *Black* that I'd tried. More significantly perhaps, it has also introduced £54/m *Black II*, as an upgrade to the original. And it certainly is a thoroughly worthwhile upgrade, as I found by comparing the two.

Happily Kog had left the original *Black*, which had been scudding around in the shed for a few years, unloved and unwanted. And although the lengths were rather different (the originals were

significantly shorter!), it was pretty obvious that the new *Black II* cable was much more dynamic, and had better timing too. Indeed, while I was using the older cable, my wife wondered whether my system was 'broken', as it sounded so indifferent from upstairs.

The only fly in this particular ointment is that the *Black II* might be an improvement on the *Black*, but I did miss the extra 'body' that I heard when I was using Naim *NAC45*. That is rather concerning, especially as the Naim cable costs £20/m less.

It's hardly fair to compare the *Black II* to my much more expressive reference Vertex AQ (now Quiescent) *Hi-Res Monaco*, as it's also far more costly, but it does remind one that much more is available for those prepared to spend a considerable sum.

