



Distortion has to be one of the most insidious aspects of sound interference currently infecting our hi-fi. It suffocates sound frequencies, choking them to such an extent that much of the available detail is masked from your ears. Distortion arrives in many flavours and is often only noticed once it is absent but, when that occurs, the difference can often be nothing short of sublime.

Tellurium Q, which only sprang into existence last year, decided to tackle distortion as a primary cause of sound inhibition, from the off, they tell me. In particular, they've concerned themselves with phase distortion which has the unfortunate effect of 'smearing' sound frequencies. The company launched its first low phase distortion speaker cable in January, as favourably reviewed by editor DP. Now expanded to a suite of four, stretching over an array of price points, this pasta pot of flat speaker cables was reviewed with my current reference, a pair of Chord Epic Twins, which retail for around £40/M.

Starting with the lowest priced Blue, a sort of *linguine*-sized, narrow, flat cable, the most noticeable aspect during playback, over a variety of musical genres and formats, was a welcome absence of muddle. When you have a low cost cable like this, you really have to get the very best out of it for the price point. Tellurium Q has done exactly that. Via the Epic Twins, vocals were slightly forward of neutral but, with the Blue cables

a more neutral, focused, precise aura settled on the music. In fact the Blue cables exhibited a tremendous sense of control; something that I've never heard from any other cable at this price point. Okay, they might suffer in the bass extension department while mids are not exactly adventurous but, for the price, I found them charming and more relaxing than the Epic Twins whose lively upper frequencies grated a touch.

Moving onto the Black cables - same size, different colour - and these cables showed a more incisive nature than the Blue and one that is aurally similar to the Epic Twin in its tone and personality. On some systems, the Black might even be a touch clinical, hence a careful demo is recommended. There is excellent focus though, which means that the overall output is comfortably superior to the already excellent Chord Epic Twin cables. Strings contain texture, bass has a real heft and vocals sound more relaxed and secure in their presentation.

I then moved onto the first of two, *tagliatelle*-sized, broad, flat cables. The Green cables could be described as 'sweet'. That doesn't mean that I see them as cloying or that they throw any sort of veil over detail, far from it. These warm, very friendly cables broaden the soundstage and provide, for the first time, an onion skin array of musical detail. That is, bass exhibited a multi-tonal depth and vocals displayed a complexity unheard of by both the Blue and Black cables. What the Green cables do, however, is roll over the frequency extremes which makes them ideal for any slightly bright system.

The flagship broad, flat Ultra Blacks are intriguing. I was initially expecting a clinical version of the Green cables but was rather surprised by the Ultra Black's maturity as purveyors of detail. Yes, the Ultra Blacks are not as sweet or as warm as the Green examples and I wouldn't describe the Ultra Blacks as perfectly neutral either but what they do give you is neutrality with a slice of texture. So, vocals have an extra expressive quality, bass bounces along with cheerful abandon and wind instruments seem, well, full of air! Clinical systems may have a slight problem with the Ultra Blacks so a considered demo should be in order. Nevertheless, what the Ultra Blacks will do for your record collection is to both extract the fine detail from within and reveal its personality. The Ultra Blacks will lay bare your music, getting under the skin of each recording.

The entire cable range is defined by its superior sense of focus at the price. This means that each frequency does not have to do battle with every other, allowing the music to display its finer qualities. More shades of colour are made available within each track and more subtly is present too while detail is no longer veiled, so you get to hear 'hidden' information that has been lurking there all along.

This is a fine array of speaker cables from Tellurium Q that will fit just about any system out there. All warrant five globe ratings at their respective price points, so are well worth investigating. **PR**

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