



soundbites

BLACK RHODIUM PHANTOM £300/1M

This is one of Black Rhodium's best value new interconnects for a long time. It's a solid core, silver plated copper design; Black Rhodium say silver plating the copper gives a "much faster and more detailed" sound than copper on its own, and solid core is claimed to be able to deliver a "clearer sound at a lower cost" than multicore. The cable, bespoke manufactured for Black Rhodium in the UK, is specified with a tight twist to reduce the possibility of distortion to the sound by RFI being picked up along the length of the cable, the company says. It sports Eichmann bullet plugs, which route the return conductor so it's connected to the socket via

a single point rather than around its circumference, in effect giving a similar sound to when star earthing is used. The whole cable is Deep Cryogenically Treated for superior sound, after being covered with a high quality braid and used labelled heatshinks for identification.

As with all Black Rhodium cables, it's very impressively voiced considering its price point. There's a sense of ease and of naturalness here that simply isn't present in several rivals which attempt to deliver massive amounts of forensic detail but fall over their feet musically, so to speak. By contrast the Phantom provides a hauntingly real ('scuse the pun) rendition of whatever it's asked to play, giving a satisfyingly snappy and rhythmic

presentation plus a nice wide and open soundstage sparkling with low level information. Yet it doesn't overlook the bigger musical picture, capturing powerful dynamics with ease without a hint of compression. I found it had a fine tonality, nicely lit across the midband but with an inherently dark, velvety patina to take the edge off strident recordings. In this respect it reminded me of some interconnects costing £1,000 or more; it's couth and sophisticated beyond its price point. An excellent value product then, doing all that you could possibly ask of a £300 interconnect and more; highly recommended **DP**

[Contact: +44 (0)1332 342233,
www.blackrhodium.co.uk]

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