

Black Rhodium Symphony Stereo

How does this popular British cable brand fare against such stiff competition?

PRICE: £195 **DISTRIBUTOR:** BLACK RHODIUM
TELEPHONE: 01332 342233 **WEBSITE:** BLACKRHODIUM.CO.UK

An English designed and built cable, it uses silver-plated copper in a two-core braided screened configuration. Low-loss PTFE inner insulation is used, as with many designs here. Although not badly presented, the Symphony wins no special prizes for build.

Sound quality

Whereas many cables here gave interesting and/or exciting performances, the Black Rhodium was initially rather underwhelming. But as the session progressed, the panel came to really value this aspect of its performance.

Indeed, "in a calm, gentle way, this is one of the most revealing wires here", said one panelist. Another agreed, "you can hear what's going on better than almost all the others here – from the

gong on the Mahler piece to the rhythm guitar of Steely Dan". The plaudits continued, as the panel enjoyed the cable's particularly easy and smooth lyrical flow.

Tonally it was described as a little shiny in the treble, but quite warm lower down. Midband was fairly open, and it just seemed to lock the rhythms together in a beguiling way that few others here managed. Unlike the Audioquest for example, there was very little sense of the cable imposing itself on the music – for better or for worse. Instead, it just seemed to let what the musicians were doing percolate through to the listener.

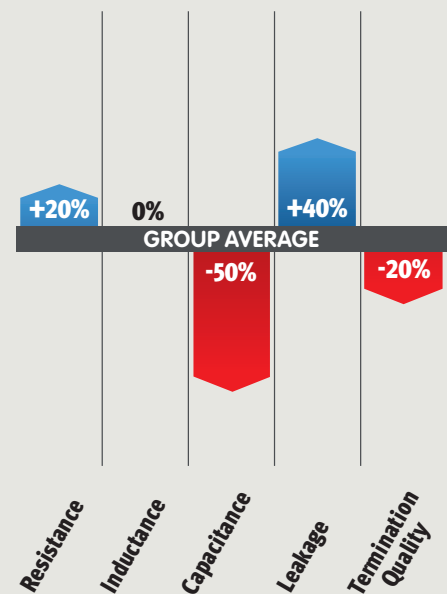
Tonally smoother and warmer than some, this won't suit all tastes, but its organic musicality will surely win it many friends.



ON TEST

Never tug on this cable (grip the barrel only) for the Symphony's gold-plated plug is not securely clamped to its purple jacket. Otherwise it's a great cable – a symmetrical design with matching signal/return cores employing silver-plated strands and a superior PTFE dielectric, although the 210pF capacitance is a little above the norm. The braided screen is terminated at the destination-end of the cable only. **PM**

RESULTS AT A GLANCE



Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY



LIKE: Lovely 'easy' manner to the way it makes music; warmish tonality handy for brighter systems

VALUE FOR MONEY



DISLIKE: Not as well built or finished as some others here

BUILD QUALITY



FINISH



WESAY: A lovely, smooth, charming listen

OVERALL

