

Black Rhodium

Foxtrot speaker cables



HAND MADE AT Black Rhodium's factory in Derby, the Foxtrot has RFI noise reduction technology to limit the effects of interference generated from computer networks, radios, mobile phones and even central heating systems. Each conductor comprises 16 x 0.2mm diameter plated copper wires, resulting in a conductor of 6mm diameter. The conductors are insulated in silicone rubber of 1.2mm thickness. Gold-plated Z plugs have been fitted to the cables and cable direction is printed on the sleeving at each end. The cable is very flexible making it easy to fit around the perimeter of carpets for a tidy installation.

After giving the Foxtrots a good running in, I start off by listening to Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite*, performed by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. There is an extremely deep and extended drum roll during the opening sequence that tends to be most noticeable when it pauses for a few bars before starting again. During this pause I become aware that the very deep rumbling has stopped. When it is there, it is almost felt rather than heard, and I have a sense that the Foxtrots are perfectly conveying the power and fullness of this drum roll. Further into the recording, the twittering of the strings is so clear and crisp that I can almost identify the individual violins playing in the orchestra.

Love at first sight

Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, played by the London Symphony Orchestra under the baton of André Previn, demonstrates the excellent full sound presentation that is transported to my speakers. The minuet in act one, scene two marks the arrival of the guests. The sudden changes of mood throughout are beautifully rendered, from the loud sections heralding the triumphal entry of each new visitor to the delicate detail of the gentler passages that paint a musical picture of the visitors mingling with the



other guests. Overall, the music is both intimate in the quieter sections and stately with great dynamics than I am used to with this recording.

The forceful opening of the first movement of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* has a rapid change of mood when the solo violin takes over the piece to commence the ocean voyage. It is clear and not at all edgy. The piece then builds to a climax with the whole orchestra playing, creating a sound that is full, luscious and refined.

Cooling things down with Scarlatti's *Sonata* in G major played on the harpsichord, I am really drawn into the performance with the intimate playing of George Malcolm. The silences between the phrases are inky black indicating that the noise floor is kept low, while I also sense that the musical edges are well defined, and the natural decays of each note of the harpsichord add to the overall realism of the reproduction.

For a complete change of musical genre, I turn to some Pink Floyd and a recent recording of *On Noodle*

Street. The bass and drums are punchy, clear and well extended. The guitars take a back seat with this recording and the theme is played on a synthesiser. These instruments blend together perfectly to create a relaxed atmospheric.

Space is the place

I round off proceedings with Ane Brun singing *These Days*. The deep bass and organ that accompany her singing are well positioned behind her. When the echo on her voice is added as the piece progresses, I get a real sense of spaciousness, as though I am listening in a large hall, rather than in my sitting room.

The very affordable Foxtrots certainly deliver a delightfully open and effortless sound from my system. Vocals have plenty of detail and all the nuances of expression are very evident. Imaging and timing are also both excellent. This is a very sophisticated-sounding set of speaker cables and gets a well-deserved five stars. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE
£275 for a 3m pair
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OUR VERDICT

