



The Vinyl Adventure

Rebel Tonearm Cable

TONEARM CABLES DIFFER

slightly from other analogue interconnects in that they are required to have a separate connection for earthing the turntable and/or tonearm to the phono stage. The connections in the turntable have to be carefully designed to avoid a hum loop occurring with the cartridge earth connections. Most often, tonearms are fitted with a 5-pin SME-type mini-DIN connector, which has the separate connection for the earth. However, some decks are fitted with phono sockets at the back and have an additional earth binding post, which requires a separate wire to connect it to the phono stage. To cater for all these requirements, The Vinyl Adventure has produced several versions of its first tonearm cable, which incorporates a separate earth lead in the design. The Rebel is available with straight mini-DIN-to-phono connectors, 90° mini-DIN-to-phono connectors, or phono-to-phono with a separate earth connection built-in. The cable is named in honour of David Bowie.

Rebel rebel

The cables are made from shielded oxygen-free copper cabling and are terminated with gold-plated Nakamichi RCA connectors, and the versions requiring the Jelco or SME-type sockets are fitted with a gold-plated 5-pin mini-DIN plug. All Rebels incorporate a separate earth lead that is fitted with a spade connector. Apart from the standard 1m length, 3m versions can also be made to order.

After a suitable period of running in, the Rebel compares favourably to an existing cable that costs three times its price. I start off proceedings with Handel's *Organ Concerto Op. 4 No. 4 in F Major* with Adrian Boult conducting the London Philharmonic. The orchestra is full, open and energetic and the instrument focus is very good indeed. The opening movement played on the organ



flows with exuberance and vitality and the marching pace of the tune is well maintained throughout. All the detail is there and the richness and character of each organ note is first rate. The final movement is fast paced and soars with energetic freedom.

Barbra Streisand's melodic voice soars effortlessly throughout *Songbird* positioned well in front of the orchestral backing. The strings are smooth and the tonal balance of the whole recording seems spot on.

As with many stereo releases of the period, Miles Davis' *Kind Of Blue* is a bit 'sax on the left, trumpet in the middle and drums on the right', which was intended to highlight the new stereo sound. It nevertheless is a superb analogue recording that has huge presence and dynamics, and this is beautifully reproduced by the Rebel. The bass is tight and in perfect proportion and the treble is clear without being strained. This is further exemplified by the hi-hat on *All Blues*, which is extremely clear and crisp.

A high quality Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab recording cut at half speed of

Pink Floyd's *Money* is reproduced well and the cash registers glitter with clarity. This is taken over by a particularly musical electric bass guitar introduction and nothing is missing from all of the complexity of each individual note. When the vocals kick in, they are really clear and the slight raspiness of the singers is perfectly reproduced.

Ashes to ashes

To close the proceedings, I choose Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No. 2* played by Dmitri Alexeev and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Of particular note is the excellent front-to-back imaging, which is very evident with this recording. Also, the piano is never swamped by the orchestra and the Rebel reproduces all of the complexities of the music with great ease.

Given its affordable price point, the Rebel offers a remarkably refined performance across a wide range of music. There's lots to like here and for the money, it is something of a no-brainer. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE
1m cable: £35 fitted with straight mini-DIN-to-phono, £40 fitted with 90° mini-DIN/phono-to-phono

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OUR VERDICT

