

TelluriumQ USB cable: a sneak review

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Internet is a wonderful thing when it really works for its users. One night I was enjoying my music downloads with Tellurium Graphite speaker cables and Tellurium interconnects, when it occurred to me, why isn't TelluriumQ doing USB cables as well? I emailed my question to Tellurium CEO Geoff Merrigan. He: "How serious you are?" Me: "Very".

Three weeks later I was listening to iTunes treasures through a prototype of a TelluriumQ USB cable! As we speak, the final version of the cable is on its way to resellers all over. Call your local dealer and make an appointment. All USB cables look quite alike but I have no doubt that the construction of this USB cable follows the same no-nonsense approach as the other Tellurium cables.

I know that for audio engineers, there's no way that a USB cable by itself can cause differences in the sound. But that's not what I have found: I have tested several high-quality USB cables, and not one has resulted in the identical sonics. I've tried Acoustic Revive USB cable in which the audio data and the power are outputted from parallel ports and united at the other end, and it was evident that the sound wasn't the same. Audioquest Reference's bright sound left me kind of cold, Transparent's USB cable was my reference for long thanks to its very good bass, natural midrange and detailed presentation. Holger Stein's USB cable was also very good and dynamic, though might have missed the lows a bit; and so on.

My impressions of the resulting sound of the new TelluriumQ USB cable have so far been largely positive. It seems like a seriously competitive USB cable indeed. It lets the bass, the midrange and the highs come through in a balanced way without privileging any of them at the expense of others. With the TelluriumQ USB cable, digital music - even Apple lossless -

sounds dynamic and natural, quite analogue. As compared to other USB cables I've tried, there's one obvious difference: it appears to play music louder!

I have no idea what the price of the TelluriumQ USB cable will be but if history is to be believed the quality and price of the cable will go hand in hand. Hopefully the price is not much beyond 500 euro because my experiences of the USB cables are such that 500 euro represents some sort of hill top, after which the extra investment brings progressively less and less extra utility.

TelluriumQ is like Apple: everything they do they do it with style, and always keeping in mind the end users. I just heard a rumour that the Tellurium USB cable will be available as a Graphite version too. Digital music has never sounded as good as it sounds today.

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