

True Colours Adder SE

TYPE Digital interconnect

PRICE £100 (1m)

CONTACT ☎ 028 9267 3024 @ www.tccables.com

TCI's basic Adder cable (£70) features the same actual wire but different plugs.

How much difference can a plug make? Quite a lot, sometimes, and the WBT NextGen phonos fitted to this version are quite distinct in design from typical plugs. Somewhat like the Eichmann plugs, they dispense with the usual annular earth connector in favour of a small sector off to one side, but they add a screw clamping arrangement which certainly makes for secure mating with the socket. The only disadvantage could, in principle, be compromised interference rejection: in practice that's highly unlikely to be an issue. The cable has the usual coaxial construction with solid polythene insulation.

Whether due to the plugs or not, this turned out to be the joker in the pack. Not that its performance is in any way bad, it's just different. Detail is good, though not quite on a par with the Supra, while tonality seems outwardly just so. But there's an almost instantly recognisable character to the sound,



a lightness of touch which is not the same thing as lack of bass. Instead, it's more of a switch of focus towards the midrange, somehow without boosting it. A hard thing to convey in words, but if you imagine that somehow your favourite recordings had the microphones very slightly closer to the rapid melody instruments you'd be close to it. We quite like the effect: it's certainly distinctive. **HFC**

VERDICT

CONCLUSION
Light, agile and melodic character is surprisingly consistent with changes of source and DAC.

HI-FI CHOICE



Wireworld Ultraviolet 5

TYPE Digital interconnect

PRICE £40 (1m)

CONTACT ☎ 020 8991 9200 @ www.wireworldcable.co.uk

If any one feature of this cable seems to stand out, then it's the diameter which, at approximately 4mm, is well below average. There's no reason why it should matter, unless you want to run digital audio over hundreds of metres. Wireworld's use of good-quality materials, in the shape of solid copper centre conductor, foamed polythene insulation and braided screen, should ensure that loss over typical runs is minimal. The plugs are again unusual, in this case using a tubular centre conductor and a six-leaf ground that gives very good contact with the socket.

This cable also has a character of its own, but it's less pronounced than that of the TCI and of a completely different nature – there's a certain 'dark' quality to the sound, almost as if the music is emerging from a darkened room. It's common to talk about blacker backgrounds when noise floors are lowered and that may be part of what's going on here, but it's hard to say that noise is actually lower than with other cables. Perhaps it's more accurate to say that



there's a subtle change in the tonality of the noise. The music itself seems tonally unchanged from other cables, apart from a tiny lift in the upper bass, so small we only spotted it after listening to several tracks. Detail is good, but not outstanding and imaging is a little perverse, with very good depth but seemingly slightly less good lateral definition than some. But note that we're using

quite high-end terminology here over a budget cable – so this is good value! **HFC**

Richard Black

VERDICT

CONCLUSION
One or two subtle deviations from perfection in this cable, but it does the basics right in both style and performance.

HI-FI CHOICE

