

Kimber Timbre

TYPE Analogue interconnect

PRICE £118 (1m terminated pair)

CONTACT ☎ 08453 451550 @ www.kimber.com

Kimber's interconnects have generally followed a common pattern in recent years, with three conductors plaited together. Termination is done with two conductors for 'hot' and one for earth: Kimber's claims for the arrangement are more to do with the way the plaiting distributes electromagnetic fields around the cable, than anything related to ohmic resistance and there's no real reason why the resistance difference in each 'leg' of the circuit should matter. Within each conductor are copper strands of various thicknesses and the insulation is of transparent Teflon. In principle, a cable constructed like this is more open to hum and interference pick up than the more common coaxial arrangement, but we've yet to encounter any problems in line-level circuits, at least. Simple, but good-quality phono plugs with Kimber's 'Ultraplate' surface treatment are fitted as standard: XLR connectors are an option, for balanced working.



We've vague memories of hearing this cable before, but it was an analloved pleasure to be reacquainted with it. Sound is beautifully solid and well-rounded, but also very delicate and highly detailed and there is a marvellous sense of stereo image in a large space between, beyond and around the loudspeakers. Only by trying direct comparison with some very fancy cables, were we able to identify any limitations: there is just the slightest hint of high-frequency congestion on

the odd occasion, but by goodness it's small in this extent. This model is only halfway up Kimber's range, but its performance frankly belies that: excellent in every way. **HFC**

VERDICT
Unless one is trying to tweak an upmarket system to the nth degree, or use a cable for 'tuning', this is one of the best interconnects we know of.

HI-FI CHOICE
★★★★★

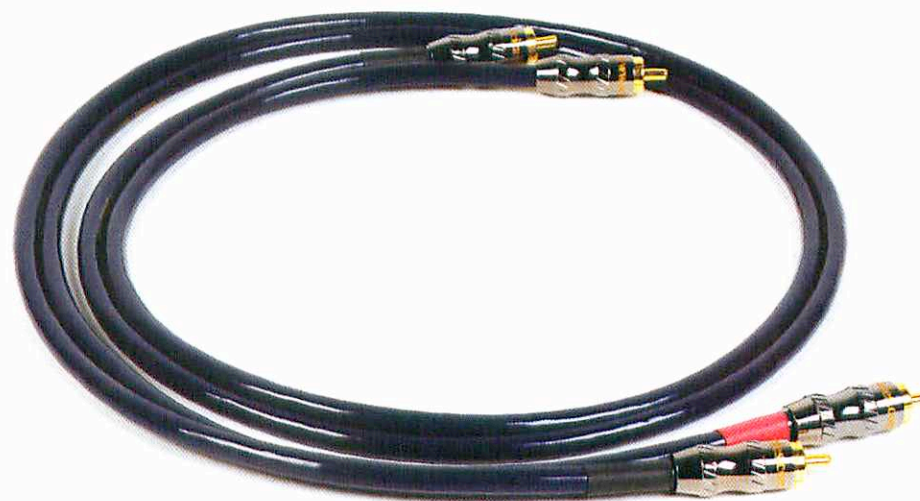
TCL Tiger II

TYPE Analogue interconnect

PRICE £30 (1m terminated pair)

CONTACT ☎ 02892 673024 @ www.true-colours.com

Very much the baby in present company, but sent to us in full knowledge of that fact and in all confidence by its maker, this is TCL's entry-level interconnect. It actually looks a good deal more upmarket than the price suggests, with some particularly handsome (and well made) phono plugs fitted. Beneath the soft jacket, it is apparently a simple twisted pair in design, an arrangement which minimises hum pickup, though under very low-signal conditions (a turntable connected to a phono preamp) the lack of shielding may possibly become an issue. The wire is straightforward stranded copper insulated in polythene, a low-loss dielectric whose properties are slightly compromised here by the fibre filler and the PVC outer sleeve – were it not for that, Tiger would also serve pretty well as a digital interconnect.



their dearer rivals can achieve. In this case, although that is still true to some extent, treble is really rather impressive. Just now and then one becomes aware of a slight lack of ambience and 'air' around the sound, but for the most part results are good and for the price, excellent. Bass is interesting, being to our ears a little short of completely neutral. Instead there is something of a lift to it, which makes for a fuller sound, but does on occasion detract from the tautness of a rhythmic

baseline. In budget set-ups, with rather bass-light systems, that may be no bad thing. Detail is good and imaging excellent with surprisingly good depth, too. **HFC**

VERDICT
A budget interconnect that differentiates itself from the competition. Admirable detail in treble and midrange; slightly uneven bass.

HI-FI CHOICE
★★★★☆