

ABBAY ROAD MONITOR STARQUAD INTERCONNECT £149/M

Now there's a name to conjure with! Pro audio specialist Moving Air's professional association with EMI Abbey Road Studios has now switched over to the consumer sphere with a range of 'Abbey Road' branded interconnects and loudspeaker cables. The rather esoterically entitled Monitor Starquad Interconnect is the cheaper of the two interconnects in the range, and boasts "Starquad" construction with "low capacitance, fast insulation" signal lines with seven 0.1mm pure oxygen-free copper (OFC) conductors. It comes terminated with Neutrik Gold plated Chuck Loaded RCA phono connectors. Interestingly, the cable is pretty bland looking – going against the fashion for cables as 'male jewellery', and packaging is Spartan too.

The sound is impressive; it's an excellent mid-price cable with few – if any – obvious weaknesses. Copper often has a crisp and spry sound, but the choice of dielectric and construction has certainly pulled



the characteristic 'sonic footprint' of the OFC conductors towards real neutrality; if anything, it's a little silky! It presents a nice, taut bass with clearly etched rhythms; it's not over warm tonally, but there's certainly plenty of dynamic impact. Moving up to the midband and it's open and spacious, with good amounts of detailing and a smooth-ish, almost velvety sound (certainly at the price, anyway) that gives decent insight

into the tonality of the recording. Importantly, it also shows great rhythmic alacrity, being somewhat reminiscent of VdH's The First in the way it keeps everything tight and musical and propulsive. Treble is smooth and dark and satisfyingly sophisticated, although it's lacking space compared to pricier designs. All in all, here's an excellent, even and open sounding cable from a welcome new name.