

Supra EFF-IX

TYPE Analogue interconnect

PRICE £77 (1m)

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We've reviewed – and greatly liked – EFF-ISL in the past. The IX is the same thing, but with cheaper, non-locking, phono plugs. The 'thing' in question is a pseudo-balanced (Supra prefers 'semi-balanced') interconnect (two identical conductors with a screen connected at one end only). However, where similar cables have two conductors under one screen, Supra prefers a separate screen for each conductor. In addition, each conductor is tubular, made up of stranded silver-plated copper wound over a plastic core, so as to minimise skin effect. The importance of that in audio is debatable, but there are plenty of other reasons why this construction may make a difference in practice. The cable is medium size, quite pliable and immediately recognisable in Supra's house colour. The phono plugs may not lock in place but they're very nice, grippy and robust.

Little if anything in the sound gives away that this is cheaper than EFF-ISL. The basic character is still agile, neutral and – for the

price – astonishingly detailed. The degree of detail loss, associated with all but the most inferior analogue interconnects, is not vast in the great scheme of things. But sometimes, one finds a cable that just seems to wipe a previously unnoticed level of smear off the metaphorical window, and this is just such a one. If there's a downside it's in a very slight leanness of balance, but the midrange and treble are beautifully neutral and natural. In addition, timing is particularly precise and as a result, one is seldom aware that there's even the slightest curtailment of very low frequencies. **HFC**



VERDICT

An unusually lively-sounding cable which, at the same time, maintains a high level of detail and in all but the lowest reaches. A great all-rounder.

