

# WHAT HI-FI?

## SOUND AND VISION

OCTOBER 2009 £4.30 [www.whathifi.com](http://www.whathifi.com)

### SPEAKER CABLE

QED XT  
EVOLUTION



£ £6.50/m

#### ↑ FOR

Great detail levels, good timing, convincing stage

#### ↓ AGAINST

Won't calm a brighter system

#### → VERDICT

QED is now a twin threat in the sub-£10/m speaker cable market

## QED sparks mid-price evolution

**QED RULED THE** 'first proper upgrade' speaker cable roost for years with its Silver Anniversary XT cable (£5/m), until Chord Company came along with its splendid £6/m Carnival Silver Screen and made off with last year's speaker cable Product of the Year Award. Although this XT Evolution cable doesn't replace the Silver Anniversary XT, it can safely be seen as an attempt by QED to wrest primacy from Chord.

It's certainly very impressive on its own terms. Playing *Wilco* (the song) from *Wilco* (the album) by – hey! – Wilco, the XT Evolution unearths impressive levels of detail both great and small. It's a fast and

well-organised listen, with plenty of low frequency modulation and impact as well as lucid soundstaging and striking stereo focus.

Midrange reproduction is intimate and, again, lavishly detailed and there's fine integration across the frequency range. Timing, particularly of barely there transients, is as good as any price-comparable competitor.

#### Top-end glint

There's the sort of merest glint to the very highest frequencies that means the XT Evolution won't be

ideal for every system, but those for whom it works – and there will be many – will find that this fine, keenly priced speaker cable works very well indeed.



You will need to spend extra to have plugs fitted to your cables