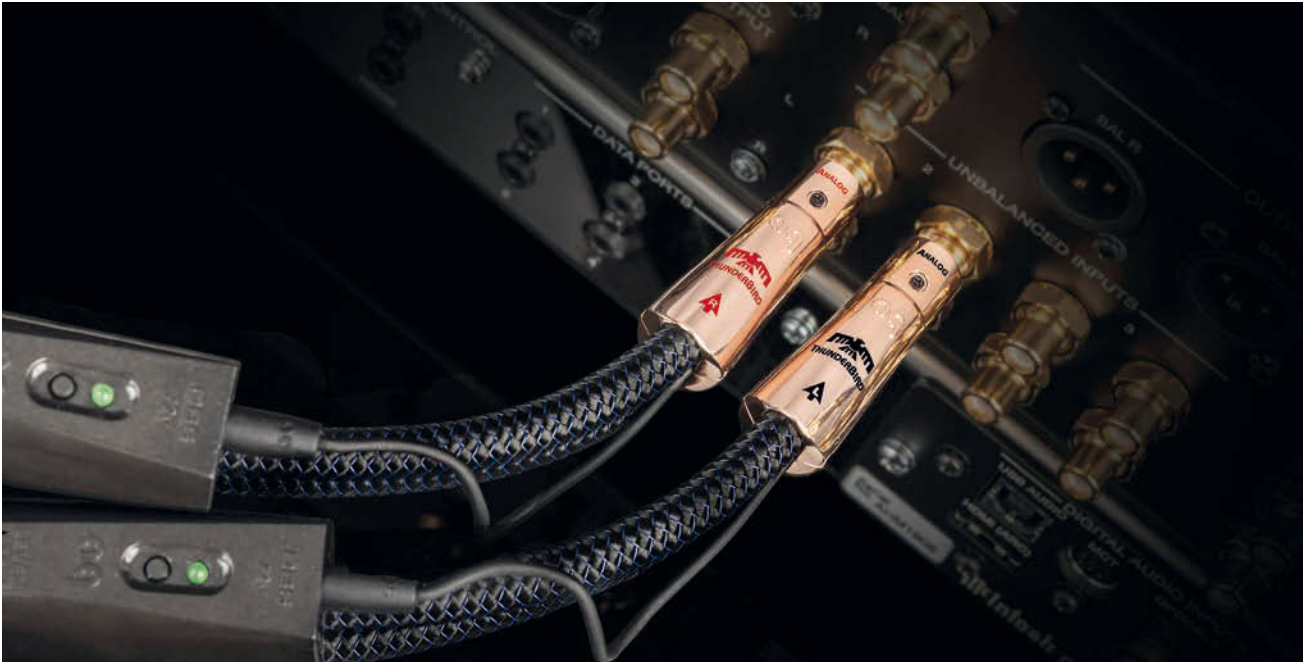




# AudioQuest ThunderBird

**WINNER**  
ANALOGUE INTERCONNECT



**A**udioQuest's latest Mythical Creatures range has some big shoes to fill; the top Dragon replacing AudioQuest supremo Bill Low's own Signature cable. But, if the more down-to-earth ThunderBird is anything to go by, these Mythical Creatures have some magic tricks up their respective sleeves.

ThunderBird's conductors remain Perfect-Surface Copper, a high-purity copper with a special and proprietary surface treatment. All the surfaces of the plug are also copper-coated, which is claimed to help its RFI busting abilities. But ThunderBird also attempts to eliminate the characteristic impedance of a cable, as first seen in the company's power cords. AudioQuest established a level of 'Permanent Molecular Optimisation' of both the cable contacts and the dielectric. The process optimally stresses the associated materials in a fashion similar to the purposeful run-in of a fine race engine.

In our test, Alan Sircom was impressed with the way ThunderBird worked with older AudioQuest cables and in a wider context. "The first is easy," he said, "it kind of banjaxes earlier AudioQuest cables." Specifically, he said that "more or less everything in the old line that sounded 'quiet' 'refined', 'natural', 'extended' and 'well-balanced' sounds a little uneven and noisy next to ThunderBird."

"Moving out of the AudioQuest romper room," Alan said, "the same applies. This is an extremely transparent cable design that simply allows two devices to speak to one another without interference or feeling the need to call an interpreter."

He summed up saying, "ThunderBird really does make a big change to the performance of a system, even one that is in the attainable rather than 'stratospheric' price and quality level."

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**Manufacturer • [audioquest.com](http://audioquest.com)**

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