

Regal Zero2 Speaker Momentum

Subjective impressions of Regal's entry-level speaker cable

As a co-author of the book *Atlas of High-End Audio* I am always on the lookout for products that can noticeably enhance the musical experience I care so much about. Does something stand out? Is it worth a closer look? Is it interesting enough for me to devote time and attention to it? **Regal Zero2 Speaker Momentum** is one such product.

Cables should not create the sound we want

There is a widespread misconception that cables can "tune" the sound in one direction or another - for example in terms of tonal balance, pace or soundstage. That expectation often leads to an endless merry-go-round of swapping brands and price brackets in the hope that magic will happen one day. **No: a cable's job is to influence the signal as little as possible.** When the signal travels through the chain with the least possible obstacle it simply sounds better. The room, the placement, the electronics and the loudspeakers have already set the quality ceiling for the system.

A brighter tonal balance does not make the sound faster

Sometimes a brighter tonal balance is marketed - and perceived - as clearer, faster, more energetic and more detailed. That is not the case. **Regal Momentum** is by far the best example I know of a **tonally neutral** speaker cable that still delivers striking immediacy. Why? Two main reasons:

1. Absence of noise
2. Full-bandwidth attack

Noise

With valves and horns in the chain, as I often have, you may become extra sensitive to noise, but the truth is that noise masks a great deal of musical information in most systems. The unsettling thing is that you only realise its extent **once the noise is gone**. Then you discover that it affects every aspect of reproduction - tonal colours, rhythmic detail or simply nuances in familiar recordings that used to be blurred but are now clear. You listen to the music more relaxed, yet the whole experience becomes more engaging.

In that sense it may seem as if **Regal Momentum** adds a dose of "transparent magic", but the explanation is simply that the cable efficiently repels noise in the sensitive stretch between power amplifier and loudspeaker.

Dynamics

Experiencing good music live with skilled musicians is like a sensory bomb. The impression can be so strong that it becomes part of your emotional capital for the rest of your life, and we therefore seek something similar at home. Perhaps the biggest difference between music in the living room and in the concert hall is **the dynamics**, on both the macro and micro level. It is by no means only about volume but at least as much about **full bandwidth** and precise timing.

If I were to name one characteristic of **Regal Momentum** that truly surprises me it is its **full-bandwidth immediacy**. This kind of realism - a rich and layered timbre that hits lightning fast - is reminiscent of music that is created right in front of you, in the moment.

By full-bandwidth dynamics I do not mean the highest or lowest frequency at the highest decibel level, but rather the broadest frequency response that the room and equipment can reproduce as **quickly** as possible, without any band sticking out noticeably. That is precisely where **Regal** differs from everything else I have had at home.

Overall impression

All arrows point in the same direction: my experience with the **Regal Momentum** cable shows **three very strong qualities and no negatives**. I do not write on behalf of any distributor or manufacturer; I simply want to relay, and perhaps spark, enthusiasm for a product that, in my opinion, deserves it.

Asbjørn W. Eikaasen