

WBT genuine and fake

Please have a look at the picture on your left hand side. You will see there 2 pairs of genuine terminals made by the expert from Germany, the company WBT, as well as one pair of fake ones. But which is which? WBT has been warning for years now of fakes of its plugs and connectors since imitators from Far East scent a chance for them due to the high profile and image of the brand. WBT products are the Gucci

handbags of the hifi industry. But is this warning legitimate at all? Are terminals really more than conducting cable holders? We wanted to put the rule to the test and found an ally for this in Mr. Manfred Diesterlich of the German loudspeaker manufacturer Audio Physic. During the Munich High End show he presented the new loudspeaker Virgo which was equipped with even three terminal pairs instead of one, all of which wired up in an equal way - WBT's elaborated nextgen™ series, two titanium color connectors from the Economy series and a pair of fakes which imitated deceptive genuinely WBT connectors from also some expensive range (from top to bottom).

The workshop was fairly simple. The loudspeaker cable being assembled with WBT banana plugs was just switched to the other connector pairs. Not even the Chief Editor of STEREO called "Mister Workshop" has ever drawn such a comparison. It turned out to be a failure because the difference in the sound we heard was much bigger than predicted. We started with the WBT Economy terminals and switched then to the nextgen ones. At the same time

Audio Physic's Virgo V has been equipped with three pairs of terminals especially for this workshop.



the acoustic space emotion expanded, more details became audible and the music seemed to flow faster. Everybody understood why Audio Physic equipped the Virgo V loudspeaker with the expensive nextgen terminals. We switched back again, and the sound ran slower, became suppressed and did not seem to fill the space. And the result of the fake terminals can only be described as a disaster. The entire sound spectrum broke down, nothing remained off the nextgen performance. Böde turned pale, some listeners started to laugh flabbergasted. These things have just ruined the sound!



In our test we compared WBT's nextgen terminals (top ones) with its Economy series and with fakes of some other WBT type (bottom ones).



„Unbelievable! Anyone who believes that pole terminals are just metal bolts in the speaker rear panel, he should have been there to hear the test results. I would never expect such a great difference. Even Böde was jiggered. The WBT fakes reduced the sound quality radically.“

Achim Kemper, Workshop participant