



TANNOY MERCURY V1 £150

The Mercury V1s take over from the previous F1 series, boasting slightly bigger cabinets than the previous models, new 13cm pulp fibre bass/mid cones and a 25mm soft dome tweeter. Inside the cabinets have extra bracing and silver-plated wiring. The capacitors in the high frequency part of the crossovers are damped with what is described as 'Differential Material Technology'. Two finishes are available, Dark Walnut or the Sugar Maple pictured. They're the smallest here, measuring 300x170x254.5mm (h x w x d) and weighing 4.5kg.

SOUND QUALITY

I was immediately impressed by the size of their delivery; the sound was projected out well and extended several feet backwards. Playing the Beethoven (a mono recording), the orchestra was placed across the centre two thirds of the area between the speakers. I did not expect floor shaking bass from such small cabinets, but was surprised to find reasonable extension of some tunefulness. Piano was handled well, avoiding nasty jangles and clangs, but things got less defined when the full orchestra joined in. At this point things started to get a bit crowded and definition fell away

somewhat.

Moving to the Mamas and the Papas LP, and things were less satisfactory. It's a difficult recording, with a very questionable balance to the sound. Given such source material the little Tannoys did their best but were tonally thinner than hoped. Meanwhile, stereo placement was good, with the musicians located well within the soundstage, but there was little sense of space between them.

With Morcheeba's 'Big Calm' things improved; fed with well recorded material the Mercury V1s sounded altogether happier and made a fine job of relaying the music. Skye's voice had its trademark smooth velvety sound, although it still felt a little shallow compared to the almost tactile depths that I am used to hearing from this recording. Still, a surprisingly even and competent performance from such small units, especially considering the price.

VERDICT ●●●●●
Well finished and designed budget speaker with good manners.

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FOR

- well balanced sound
- open soundstaging
- decent bass

AGAINST

- lacks detail

MEASURED PERFORMANCE

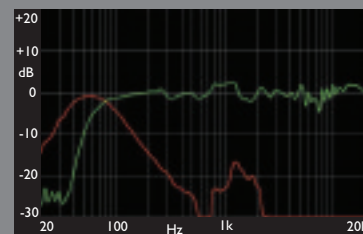
The Mercury V1 has an unusually flat frequency response our analysis shows, free of major trends, except for a midrange peak that may just push vocals forward a bit. A small amount of upper midrange droop will soften the delivery a tad, whilst the tweeter will deliver obvious but not excessive treble.

Bass extends down to 60Hz and the port pushes this down to 40Hz. As port output is high it may well dominate bass quality, making the Mercury V1 quite bassy.

A 200mS decay analysis shows low colouration, except for overhang at 80Hz. Sensitivity was normal at 86dB sound pressure level from one nominal watt of input (2.8V) so 40 Watts or more is needed to go loud. With impedance measuring 7.3 Ohms and the impedance curve not too peaky, the Mercury is an easy enough load.

The Mercury has been carefully engineered to provide an even, smooth

and accurate sound. Measurement shows a very balanced design. NK
FREQUENCY RESPONSE



Green - driver output
Red - port output

IMPEDANCE

