

JBL K2?

Author

Subject: JBL K2?

Posted At 09:59:34 02/01/2002

[Ho Ngo](#)

I own a pair of K2. They are and still one of the best speaker. Like Kevin said, they are very dynamic, and struly a Statement of what JBL can do. After owning them for 7 years, I can still smile because no other speakers that I heard out there have all the K2 qualities, at any price, and I have heard most of high price speakers. They are large but their footprints are no more then a JBL4344. They are heavy, about 500 pounds each, come in four pieces, stack on top of each other but easy to move. They need minimum 20watts. I bi-amp them with 2 20watts 845 tube amplifier on each side and they sounded at their best. They are true high end speaker, excellent coherency from top to bottom, great imaging, deep soundstage. This is truly an audiophile speaker. I have done some extensive listening with the M9500 too. The M9500 go a little bit lower, due to larger bass cabinets. But the finish dont come even close to the S9500's balck piano finish. The M9500 has an outboard crossover supplied with special cable and neutric connector. The S9500 has integral crossover, and can be switched to: single amp, biamp with internal crossover, biamp with active crossover, or can be used without the top woofer as the S7500. The M9500 horn is made out of wood and finish in Nextel (or alike) finish. The S9500 horn is a solid piece of machine acrylic! about 75 lbs each, and does not have any horn signature at all. It's too bad that JBL never shown to the public what these speakers can do, or what the JBL engineer team are capable of.

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 12:34:27 02/01/2002

[Kevin Kimbrough](#)

Hello Sir

Sounds like you are happy with your speakers indeed. I could not afford them so my decision was for the S3100 with the assymetrical horn. I have personally never seen the piano black finish, but had always seen the grey finish in Japan. Correct me if I am wrong but the K2 has a concrete base around 100 pounds each! The brochure in Japan shows the speakers taken apart into a S7500. Have you heard the S9800? The reviews are very good in Stereosound Japan. Component of The Year! Great Listening
Kevin

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 13:09:06 02/01/2002

Kevin,

[Ho Ngo](#)

Yes the K2 has a concrete base, weight probably more than 100lbs, that's the fourth piece of the speaker system that I mentioned above. Without the concrete it will probably rock and collapse if you have carpeted second floor. The S7500 model is exactly the S9500 without the top woofer. The crossover of the S9500 indicate that there is a switch for S7500 when you remove the top woofer. I used to own the S3100 (not mark 2), they are very nice sounding speaker go deeper than the K2, except the midrange is a little bit edgy, and coarse, I always wonder how it would sound with the 175 which is much smoother. The one I had was in black oak veneer.

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 13:12:11 02/01/2002

[Ho Ngo](#)

I have not heard the S9800, only seen it in Japanese Stereo sound magazine. It was COTY in Japan. The M9500 was also COTY back then, with the S9500 rank next to it, came in second place.

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 14:24:03 02/01/2002

Unless I am misinterpreting the recent issue of Stereo Sound, I don't believe the S9800 won this year's COTY award. That appears to have gone to B&W's Nautilus 800 Signature. Instead, the S9800 apparently won the a "Golden Sound" award. Since I cannot read a word of Japanese, I could easily be wrong.

Just to set the record straight, both the S9500 and M9500 were individual COTY award winners in their years of introduction (1989 for the S9500 and 1993 for the M9500). This is according to Stereo Sound's senior editor.

[Don
McRitchie](#)

I heard the S9800 briefly at this year's CES. Very dynamic, yet detailed and it imaged well. Bass performance was hard to judge. The rooms at the Tuscany Hotel were all extremely resonant and colored the bass response.

According to Greg Timbers, the S9800 is designed for deeper extension than the S9500 but will not plumb the depths of the M9500.

The M9500 remains a personal favourite of the JBL design staff. In addition to being Greg Timber's choice for home use, Gerry Moro was in the process of building his own M9500 in his spare time when we met with him last October. Gerry is the designer of the 1500AL bass driver used in the S9800.

Don

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 11:55:40 02/02/2002

[Walter](#)

Dear Sirs,

I never have a chance to listen to K2, but I got 4pc of the base driver of 1400nd use in K2. I built the enclosure and use it together with 375 driver with Hartsfield horn. Very disappointed, the sound of the bass driver is very poor. bass is not dynamic at all. I compare to LE15, 150-4c, the 1400nd is a rubbish. I should not buy these 4 speakers, which I pay total 1200, and they are NOS.

I don't know why, many friends of mind say the k2 is so so, not a greatest speakers. Are they wrong? One guy even say, better through away the 1400nd instead of using it. I feel very bad on this bass driver. the other JBL old vintage product like Le15, 150-4c are excellent. Is JBL doing backward?

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 1 replies)

Posted At 14:49:20 02/02/2002

[Kevin Kimbrough](#)

Hey Walter

Once the woofer 1400nd came across the screen some of the guys knew what they were even though listed as 12 inch. Did you construct the cabinets as necessary? The K2 uses 2 cabinets of different volume, also there seems to be no info on the 1400nd except that it is similar to what is used in the Array Series 4893. Where did you get the appropriate cabinet volume from? They applied the technology of one speaker to the other. I have heard the speaker you tried to construct and the bass was very quick and detailed, not the knock down the wall type speakers but limited extension for quickness. One question though JBL specifically did not use that driver 1400ND in the 4893 subwoofer instead went with a conventional 14 since the driver does not have the great extension except when reinforced in a room. Lastly what type of equipment are you using, and are you bi-amping the units? Really I am not the know it all but was particularly interested in that technology once seen.

Kevin

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 19:21:19 02/02/2002

[Ho Ngo](#)

Walter,

The 1400nd sounded very different from other JBL 15in like the 2235 in the 4344. If you are used to the sound of the 4344 or even the S3100, you might be a little bit disappointed here. It does not go as deep, but the trade off is very tight and quick, dynamic and have plenty of bass (for me). The 4344 bass sounded somewhat loose compare to the K2, owners of 4344 always try to do something to tame its bass, most try to raise them about 5 in off the floor. I am surprised of how low the K2 goes because the bottom cabinet volume of the K2 is not that big, the top cabinet is even smaller. Also the overall sound of the K2 depends on what amplifier you drive them with. For example, with McIntosh MC30, they will drive you out of the room, piercing high, no bass. Forget all the pentode tube type amplifier. Even though rated at 97db @ 2.8v into 4ohms, you will need about 40 watts. Use a good

20 watt 845 SE amplifier and the speakers really shine, I used 2 20watts biamp (passive) per side for greater dynamic. I have tried few 8 watts 300B SE but most sounded very wimpy and no dynamic, except one, the JJ322 20W parallel single ended, not surprisingly, this amp use an output transformer the size of about 40 watts Tango outout transformer. I think JBL engineers have done great job intergrating the drivers , cabinets and crossover together.

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 12:16:51 02/05/2002

Cyrille

I agree with that, I recently trade off my single ended 300 B for a more "muscular" 845. The result was amazing in every aspect of the frequency response!! I am using the JBL Everest, which I thought was very easy to drive but in fact do require a strong output transformer amp. Since the 2425 compression driver is not perfect it seems that the 300 B ehnanace even more its defaults. Also, as you might be aware the Everest were not meant to be very low in terms of bass response (40 HZ). I have then coupled them with a B460, and now, it rocks anything you want!!. Did someone have similar experience with 845 tubes?

Cyrille

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 07:12:20 02/07/2002

Bernard Wolf

Had you tried a good PP tube amp ? Contrary to what Ho says above about pentode amps I had experimented with everything PP,SE,SS,Tubed SE...everything but a 845 I must admit, but my Pentode - perhaps triode connected - Jadis DEFY DA 30 outperformed them all. Great wieght and decent extension with my S/3100. BTW, what is a B460 ?

Bernard

[Re: JBL K2?](#) (Currently 0 replies)

Posted At 10:32:49 02/07/2002

[Kevin Kimbrough](#)

Hey Bernard

We have conversed several times about the S3100. The B460 is the 18 inch subwoofer that was a compliment to the JBL 250 series, pictured in the brochure for that model. Also complimented the Everest. It was somewhat the beginning of the home sub revolution.

<http://www.lansingheritage.org/html/jbl/specs/home-speakers/1983-b380-b460.htm>
Here is the article posted on this site.

Kevin

Post Reply:

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