

BRITISH POTENCY

— the JPW P1 speakers



Some 19th century British political observer mused that the sun never set on the British Empire. But came the day that it did and Britain's military, industrial and commercial might collapsed like a blimp with a leak. These days however, if you look into the world of British hi-fi, you get the distinct impression that it's "The Empire Strikes Back". JPW has joined the intergalactic fleet with a weapon that just might have some impact.

JPW P1 SPEAKER SYSTEM

Dimensions: 440 mm (height) x 260 mm (width) x 260 mm (depth)
Weight: 7.6 kg
Manufacturer: JPW Speakers, Plymouth, United Kingdom
Recommended retail price: \$429/pair

EACH YEAR we hear of some new manufacturer of loudspeakers in the United Kingdom who has hung out his shingle and is offering either a "new, more exciting" or "more innovative" product. JPW is another example to join the illustrious group of manufacturers who are all leaving their 'veritable mark' on the world of high fidelity.

JPW is a very small firm with an equally

Louis Challis

small product range. At the moment this consists of three products, the least expensive of which is the model P1 speaker system under review.

The managing director of JPW is also its founder, an engineer by the name of Peter Wanstall, a self-confessed hi-fi addict who has produced his own speakers and amplifiers for some years. Since 1978 JPW has been actively producing products for the British market and recently branched into the export field.

What's in the box

The model P1 is a true bookshelf speaker system featuring a fully timber-veneered cabinet. The main driver is a 200 mm diameter woofer with an unusual diecast basket and 25 mm diameter long-throw voice coil manufactured by Vifa in Denmark. This driver is mounted in a sealed, solidly constructed enclosure of 18 mm thick double-veneered particle board.

The inside of the enclosure incorporates a 25 mm thick low density bonded acetate absorptive lining with a five element pi filter crossover mounted on the rear panel. This crossover operates at 2250 Hz to feed an unusual 19 mm diameter soft dome tweeter in which ferro fluid is used in the air gap for power handling enhancement. This tweeter is also manufactured by Vifa.

The cabinet is very well made and the front escutcheon features a neatly fabricated moulded hardboard frame with plastic retention caps surmounted by a dark brown open weave speaker cloth. The rear of the cabinet is painted and incorporates a pair of colour-coded universal terminals in a protected recess on the back panel.

On test

The objective testing provided results which were substantially better than I would have expected from such a modest sized enclosure.

The on-axis frequency response of the enclosure is extremely smooth, lying within ± 6 dB from 80 Hz to 20 kHz. At 30° to the main axis there is a noticeable droop but only above 15 kHz whilst the crossover notch at 2.2 kHz becomes quite apparent. The close proximity measurements confirm ▶