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[Test of JBL 4429](#)

The old school

JBL 4429 look like they were made in the 70s, but in reality they can beat most of today's speakers into the boots.



[Audun Garden](#)

07/09/2011

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There is something special with the JBL sound. The resounding of the tone and firm the bass from the JBL's larger models provide clear associations with live concerts and the sound clear and effortless even at sound levels that would have been regular speakers to succumb. This is largely thanks to the use of horn technique, and there are few who get to this as good as JBL. They have been around since 1946 and is among the producers with long experience in horn speakers and profflyd. High-end horn speakers that K2 and Everest are good, but unfortunately oh so precious examples of this, but now there is a cheaper option: JBL's classic blue studio monitors have previously been reserved for the Japanese market, but now they have decided to market the series in Europe. And after spending several rainy summer days with the second largest models, the JBL 4429, we can not say other than it was about time ...

Big in Japan

In Japan, love the JBL sound as much as the European rock fans, and surf back JBL's Japanese website you will see the goodies that are not sold on this side of the globe. One of the arguments has been that the speakers have been tuned for a slightly different Japanese lydideal, but the real reason is NOK that JBL has not seen economic basis for the series through the European CE and ROHS approvals until now. The Japanese models previously used mercury, which is a no-words in an environmental context.

Here in the Nordic countries enjoy JBL great popularity and the influx of the Norwegian importer Neby Hi-Fi has been relatively high, even when it comes to expensive high-end models such as Array, K2 and Everest. This is NOK weighed heavily when JBL decided to drop the retro series here on the mountain.

Tppmodellene 4429

The top model in the Studio series is 4365, a huge speaker with 15 inch bass that bears clear similarities with the C2. 4429 that we test here, is far more compact, but not small by any standards. To 50,000 million fills the gap between models LS80 (25,000) and Array 1400 (80,000). 4429 is a classic "Japanese bookshelf speaker" format, and personally reminds me of the Technics speakers my dad bought his Tandberg Silver Super 70's. But even if the look is retro, is content with. The horn is made from JBL's SonoGlass material, with two compression drivers of titanium covering the frequency range from 800 Hz and up. Behind the fabric grill, we find a powerful 12 inch woofer from JBL's professional division (1200 FE-8). It looks like most of all on a car stereo bass and has a very powerful magnet, which is needed to keep up with the highly efficient horn elements. 4429's put a little special format, and can well stand on a shelf, but preferably they should be on a pair of semi-high racks. JBL delivers a set of 35 cm high stands in the navy blue version to match the speakers well.

Sound quality

Results

Sound quality	
Functionality	
Ease of use	
Quality Impressions	Hard-hitting, musical and wonderful Plays very loud and clean
	Limited bass Thrive best near the rear wall

Facts

Three-way speakers, bass reflex
 19 mm Titanium super tweeter
 50 mm titanium tweeter
 12 "bass / midrange
 Frequency Response: 40 Hz - 45 kHz (-6 dB)
 Sensitivity: 91 dB (2.83 dB from 1)
 Impedance: 6 Ohm

Manufacturer:	JBL
Price:	50.000, -
Import:	Harman Nordic

Expectations were decoupled as I hooked up 4429 for the first time. On the one hand, I had the test of the enormous C2 S9900 to nearly 300,000 kroner in mind. A speaker who did uslettelig impression on yours truly long after the temporary tinnitus had subsided. With the ability to provide crystal clear, powerful and musical matter volume was a true reference in my book, and rarely had the desire for a pair of speakers has been greater. But no matter how I twisted it, I had neither the space, money or power amplifier NOK to drive them.

So I had a little hope that 4429 would offer much of the same action to a more reasonable price. At the same time, I had to take into account that 4429 is less than half as much and costs only a fifth of C2. So this would be NOK to dream, but maybe it was possible to hope for a similar sound, only in slightly smaller format?



In this context, the first meeting of 4429 a disappointment. How did bass taken the road? Fortunately, the sleek sound more testers than the speakers' fault. To place these speakers a meter from the wall as we usually were obviously wrong. Located close to the wall - as the Japanese prefer it - playing 4429 on the other hand as a bullet.

Straight to the point: This is a speaker that sounds crazy tough in rock n roll, hip hop and electronica. Not only can they play almost infinitely high, they also have a juicy kick in the bass that makes the bass drum to be felt in abdomen. Much of the credit is on the adult bass element, which also covers much of the midrange. It sounds the vocal rendition, which is far more physical and aggressive than we're used to from the more ordinary hi-fi speakers. That this is a horn speaker is marked easily by the upper midrange is amazing crisp and clear. Many believe that the horns are music to sound hard and pointed, but this is a misconception. JBL's horns are at least of the kind and ear friendly sort, and even Nine Inch Nails and the breathless vocals to Trent

Reznor can tilt them off balance.

4429 is no stranger to the more low-key acoustic music. "Highwaymen" with Nelson, Cash, Jennings and Kristofferson songs so divine that you could want, with a soul and nerve I have rarely heard before. Dire Straits with "You and your friend" at high volume also had an experience like no other. That also challenging vocals from Diana Krall and Kari Bremnes come safely through, testify that this is a rock speaker with the sophistication intact.

Wow! This really matters, notes colleague Geir Nordby as he stepped into the test room. - This is how I remember the good hi-fi song when I was younger. Not the most neutral I've heard, but they sound harsh and beautiful at the same time. I had a pair of JBL L 112 in the attic, which I regret I sold, says Nordby, before he adds: - The vocals of Mark Knopfler's bright strong, but still sound is not hard or pointed!

Advantages and disadvantages

I of course had to take the chance to try the 4429 at home in my own home, and even in far from ideal premises with a Pioneer LX83 receiver as coachman, sounded far better than I had expected. 4429 seems to be fairly forgiving as long as they are placed near the back wall, and does not require electronics in the super class to sound good. That said, we got very good results with the Mark Levinson 532H (£ 70,000), also from the Harman-stable, and Hegel's new mono blocks. We could connect the insanely expensive electronics before the speakers felt that the weak part, so this is a couple to live long.

A couple of warnings, we still provide: Something very deep bass below 50 Hz do not expect. Slim is not, but JBL has waived the deepest bass and instead concentrated on providing good sound from the bass upwards. Here they play in return tougher than most I've heard, and up in the midrange, I find it actually better than the larger Array 1400 (80.000 million), which I also have more experience with.

One advantage of the slightly nedstrupte deep bass is that the speakers can be placed close to the wall without getting the typical inflated boom the bass as you normally experience with large speakers in small rooms. In my apartment, I am plagued with just this, but with 4429 I was fast, tight, full and punchy bass so it was, and thanks to romforsterkningen missed I never subwoofer.

4429 is no distinct perspective champion. The sound is perceived quite flat and not give the great depth of experience. One can see far behind the three-dimensional sound image from a competitor who Tannoy DC10T. After hearing both speakers in similar conditions, the difference is like night and day. Tannoy folds out sound in micro detail, while the JBL-one gives you the sound right in the face, direct and unmasked. In other words, the speaker for everyone, but everyone who likes music a little heavier repertory owes itself to hear JBL 4429.

Conclusion

JBL 4429 is a genuine old school rock speaker for guys with chest hair, tattoos and want a ring somewhere on the body. They are able feat of sounding rock

hard and delicious at the same time, and you can not find a speaker that sounds better on melodic and hard hitting metal as Dream Theater and Iron Maiden. It can be tempting to draw parallels to good bilstereo lyd, where the sound always has a good foundation and low distortion. Perfect they are not, the very deepest bass is missing, and to be 50,000 kroner speakers are more energetic than 100% neutral. But we can live with when the sound is as raw as this!

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Comment (2)



Knut 08/09/2011 10: 24

Hello,

Have you had the opportunity to test the 4365 as well?
Would be great with some impressions from the.

[Reply](#)



Audun Garden 08/09/2011 10: 51

Hi Knut!

No, 4365, we have not yet heard, but we hope to get them on the test bench soon. You can expect these go deeper in the bass has more punch and can play much higher than 4429. I'm excited about how close they will come up against the C2 S9900!

4429 is a compact speaker in relation to 4365 (you can see the aspect ratio here: <http://kobaden.net/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/p10100282.jpg> but in smaller rooms, I think they may work just as well! Preferably, I would have had them in the original stands, pictured here: <http://blog.avac.co.jp/photos/uncategorized/2010/11/06/004.jpg>

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