

WOW! That's Forward Thinking!™

The World's Finest Cables...™



Join the club
Login | Register

Latest Issues
Subscribe

Home **Reviews** News Best Buys Blogs Videos Forums Competitions Awards Where to Buy

Search site

Go

REVIEWS

TVs

Home cinema

Hi-Fi

CD players

Hi-fi amplifiers

Hi-fi speakers

Turntables

Radio tuners

Recorders

Preamps

Power amps

iPod docks etc

Dock systems

All-in-one-systems

Home digital media devices

Digital TV boxes

Portable

Accessories

Gaming

HOT NEWS

Samsung UE55ES8000 review

New Apple iPad 3 test

Onkyo's 2012 AV amps

B&W MT-60D review

Download our digital edition

Reviews by brand

SPONSORED LINKS

What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision **Reviews** Hi-Fi **Hi-fi speakers**
JBL Studio 580

JBL Studio 580

£ 1500

Hugely capable floorstanders that deliver an impressively capable (and fun) sound

Write your own review



Review Your Opinion Tech Specs

For

Insight and subtlety coupled with the dynamic power and attack expected from JBL

Against

Fit and finish seems rather ordinary

Our first impression of the **JBL Studio 580** speakers isn't great.

It's not that we have an issue with the unusually-shaped front panel – after all, horn-loading is part of JBL's DNA – but the floorstander's general look and feel is disappointing for a product at this level.

Such shortcomings are soon forgotten once we're listening to music – and the sound they deliver also has a lot to do with that design.

This is a two-way design: twin 16.5cm PolyPlas-coned woofers deliver the low frequencies, leaving a 25mm horn-loaded compression driver to handle everything above 1.5kHz.

That low crossover point means more of the midrange is handled by a single unit than would be the case with a more conventional design, which normally cross over at 2.5kHz or so.

JBL Studio 580: Sound quality

The result is that these are unusually focused and direct with voices.

There's a degree of intimacy that most rivals overlook, and the 580s manage class-leading levels of insight.

There's also huge scale, deep, powerful bass and an impressive degree of composure.

Tonally, they aren't the sweetest around, and if neutrality is paramount there

Also consider

ProAc Studio Mk2
£ 1650

They might look the same as the predecessors, but ProAc Studio 14 are dynamic powerhouses with large sound

[Read](#)

[More reviews](#)

Now add this

HI-FI AMPLIFIER
Roksan Casj M2
£1650

[More reviews](#)



THE GLOBAL STAGE FOR INNOVATION

PRODUCED BY  CEA

are rivals that will serve you better.

But these JBLs counter by being a lot of fun to listen to.

They need a relatively large room if that bass isn't to become too prominent, but given that space, and care in positioning, they are deeply impressive.

JBL Studio 580: Verdict

Here's a speaker that lives up to JBL's rock-based heritage yet still has the finesse to do justice to all kind of music.

If we had £1500 to spend on floorstanding speakers, the Studio 580s would be on our shortlist.

[See all our speaker Best Buys](#)

[Follow whathifi.com on Twitter](#)

[Join whathifi.com on Facebook](#)

Latest offers BETA



JBL Control Now

£79.95



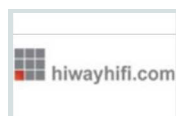
JBL ES80 Cherry

£499.99



JBL Control Now

£99.99



JBL ES30

£179.99



EXCLUSIVE **JBL Studio 580** | **Stereo speakers** | **£1500**

Unusual design a big hit with all types of music

Our first impression of JBL's Studio 580s isn't great. We have no issue with the unusually shaped front panel - horn-loading is part of JBL's DNA - but the floorstanders' general look and feel is disappointing for a product at this level.

Beautifully focused, yet powerful sound

Such shortcomings are soon forgotten once we're listening to music. These are a two-way design: twin 16.5cm PolyPlas-coned woofers deliver the lows, leaving a 25mm horn-loaded compression driver to handle everything above 1.5kHz. That low crossover means more of the midrange is handled by a single unit than would be the case with a more conventional design, which normally cross over at 2.5kHz or so.

The result is that these are unusually focused and direct with voices. There's a degree of intimacy that most rivals overlook, and the 580s manage class-leading levels of insight. There's also huge scale, deep, powerful bass and an impressive degree of composure.

Tonally, they aren't the sweetest around, and if neutrality is paramount there are rivals that will serve you better. But these JBLs counter by being a

That horn-loaded driver handles a wider frequency range than usual



lot of fun to listen to. They need a relatively large room if that bass isn't to become too prominent, but given that space, and care in positioning, they are deeply impressive.

Here's a speaker that lives up to JBL's rock-based heritage yet still has the finesse to do justice to all kind of music. If we had £1500 to spend on a floorstander the Studio 580s would be on our shortlist.

Rating ★★★★★

FOR Insight and subtlety coupled with the dynamic power and attack expected from JBL

AGAINST Fit and finish seems rather ordinary

VERDICT Hugely capable floorstanders that deliver a impressively capable (and fun) sound

WHAT HI*FI?
SOUND AND VISION

