

Tannoy | Mercury V1 | £150

Tannoy Mercurys set temperatures soaring

When a speaker range runs in to its fifth generation, you might think that a manufacturer would start to run out of ways to improve design and performance, especially when the speakers are entry-level and every penny counts. But that's most definitely not the case with Tannoy's hugely popular Mercury range. The Mercury V1s feature a raft of revisions and upgrades over the previous generation which, Tannoy claims, improve performance.

Upgrades aplenty

First, the company has introduced a larger cabinet to allow for deeper bass. The bracing has been altered to produce a stiffer framework - conducive to a greater sense of attack and dynamics.

Tannoy's tweekery doesn't stop there. The V1s feature a 13cm mid-bass driver with a completely new pulp-fibre cone, making it lighter and more rigid than anything previously seen on this range. The 25mm soft-dome tweeter is new, and the crossover and wiring have been upgraded, too.

The new Mercurys are available in either Dark Walnut (pictured here) or Sugar Maple. They're equipped with a front-firing bass

reflex port, which makes them very flexible where positioning is concerned. Close to a back wall or free-standing, these speakers aren't fussy. They're also shielded, so you could use them close to an old-fashioned CRT television as part of a home cinema

The V1s are available in two finishes: Dark Walnut (as here), and the lighter Sugar Maple



package along with the other speakers in the range (see panel, right).

The mark of any loudspeaker worth its salt is that, over prolonged periods of listening, there's nothing that sticks out, bugs or annoys you.

And, it's precisely that kind of praise you can heap on the Tannoys. Listen to a varied mix of artists, ranging from the

The Mercury V1 is a speaker that can be enjoyed with a wide range of electronics

Beastie Boys to Beethoven and you should have no reason for complaints.

The V1s are wonderfully balanced with a rich, smooth treble, expressive yet composed midrange and tight, controlled and textured bass. Some rivals have greater potency in attack, but the Tannoys are just a speaker that can be enjoyed, whatever the weather and with a wide range of electronics. The Anthony And The Johnsons track *Thank You For Your Love* has ▶

▶ a great feeling of delicacy and detail to it. The vocal is highly detailed, and draped in a pleasant, natural tone. Fire up Major Lazer's *Mary Jane*, and the Tannoys kick into action providing a punchy, pounding bassline that eggs the track on.

For the money, the V1s are seriously impressive and their flexible nature and all-round abilities make them a worthy five-star speaker.

Rating ★★★★★

FOR Balanced, detailed, hugely enjoyable sound; flexible with regards positioning and system matching

AGAINST Some rivals are more attacking with their delivery

VERDICT An excellent all-rounder, and a fantastic addition for any blossoming entry-level system

It needs to beat

Mission MX 1

£150 ★★★★★

Spectacular speakers for the money, the Missions have set a seriously high benchmark that the Tannoys have to match. They major in detail, scale and dynamics



Tannoy's Mercury family

Mercury V4 £379

The floorstanders in the range, the V4s stand at just under one metre tall. They use two, 15.2cm mid-bass drivers, larger than those on the V1. They sit above and below the tweeter. Unlike the V1s, the V4s are bi-wirable and rear ported.



Mercury VC £129

A dedicated centre channel, which uses a 10cm mid-bass driver either side of the Tannoy's soft-dome tweeter. Single-wired, with two bass reflex ports on the rear.



Mercury VR £139

These dedicated surrounds are more than 12cm shallower than their V1 brethren, so you should consider wall-mounting. The driver arrangement is identical to that found on the V1.

