

Focal JM Labs Twin 6 BE | £829 each

Focal have a great reputation for accurate high-end monitoring. *Dan 'JD73' Goldman* checks out the Twin 6 BE and is blown away...

WHAT IS IT?

A 3-way active near/midfield studio monitor with beryllium dome tweeter and two 6.5" woofers.

CONTACT

Who: SCV London
Tel: +44 (0)208 84181470
Web: focalprofessional.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 High-quality, heavy-duty cabinets
- 2 Accurate and transparent from 40Hz to 40kHz, with deep lows and unveiled mid-range
- 3 Beryllium tweeter makes for very accurate and precise high end

SPECS

Electronics System:

Frequency response: 40Hz-40kHz

Maximum SPL: 113dB SPL (peak@1m)

Input: XLR only-Adjustable, +4dBu/-10dBV

LF amplifier: 150W rms, BASH® technology x2

HF amplifier: 100W rms, class AB

LF and HF boost/cut dials

Woofer: (low or mid switchable) W composite sandwich cone, 6.5" drive unit x2

High frequency: Beryllium inverted dome tweeter
Integral Shielding

Cabinet: 19mm MDF panels with internal braces, red veneer sides, black on body

Dimensions: 240 x 330 x 290mm

Weight: 11kg each

French company Focal JM labs have been making monitor speakers and amplifiers for over 20 years and have won

several awards for their innovative products. Though perhaps not as well known as some manufacturers, they certainly have a great reputation. Many top producers and studios swear by their Focal systems.

The Twin 6BE monitors are near/midfield analogue monitors, designed for either horizontal or vertical placement and comprise a three-way actively amplified design. Straight out of the box these speakers ooze high quality, with beautifully designed (and very weighty) wood veneer cabinets and marble-effect speaker cones.

There are three speakers and three amplifier stages contained within each cabinet – two 6.5 inch drivers and one

BE (beryllium) inverted dome tweeter. Each speaker has its own amp – one 150W amp for the LF, one 150W amp for the LF/MF and a 100W amp for the HF, with a crossover set at 2500Hz. These amplifiers all utilise ST microelectronics patented BASH technology, for maximum amplifier efficiency across a wide frequency spectrum. There are also controls for input volume and high/low boost/cut.

Woof woof

The two woofers can cover both the low- and mid-range and using the flick-switches at the rear of the speakers, set either woofer to produce the mid-range, depending on whether the monitors are mounted vertically or horizontally. The two woofers utilise Focals own 'W' type speaker cones, which use woven glass for a tough yet accurate speaker cone.

The Beryllium inverted dome tweeter is the result of several years of detailed research. Beryllium can only be used for manufacture in the USA, France and Russia and is often used for military-based technology due to its extremely rigid and low-density composition. This makes it ideal for producing very high frequencies accurately and precisely and is a huge leap forward in tweeter design.

Sound of silver

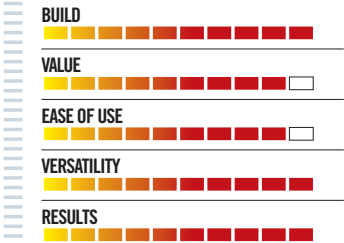
Sound-wise, the Twin 6's are something of a revelation. These are perhaps the most accurate and engaging speakers I've ever had the pleasure of using. First off, the Beryllium tweeter provides super-tight clear and accurate high-end response, revealing amazing detail and clarity in hi-hats, vocals and beyond. The mid-range is also extremely revealing, putting many other speakers to shame and allowing you to zoom deep into your mixes. Extracting problem frequencies is a doddle! These speakers reveal everything bad about your mixes, just as an accurate monitor speaker should.

The low frequency response is no different. It's tight, accurate and punchy and you'll hear any problem frequencies immediately (in well treated rooms, right down to 40 Hz), so it's debatable whether you'll actually need a sub or not. Amazing from a 6.5-inch driver!

To sum up, these are by far the most accurate and transparent monitors I've ever tried or heard. So much so that my Mackie 824 mk1s are going on ebay. They have a fantastic stereo image, wide sweet spot, mixes translate well in all styles/genres, and they aren't fatiguing. Above all else, they are a joy to use. The only small problem I can find is that the speaker switches would be better mounted on the front of the speaker meaning you reach around the back. Hardly a deciding factor. Hats off to Focal, my order is in the mail. **FM**



FutureMusic VERDICT



These speakers are hard to beat at any price. Exactly what a great studio monitor should do!