

# JBL LSR25P

Brad Watts publishes his desktop findings.

I already have a pair of JBL speakers! There, I said it. I've got a pair of JBL speakers! And I must confess to liking them. While my 4206s (now I'm really dropping my trousers) wouldn't be my last reference on a mix, they do serve me well as my 'workstation' monitors, and they're great for showing up little glitches and getting my delay effects oh-so-on-time. In times past JBL were undoubtedly the first choice for a lot of studios. Over the years JBL hasn't enjoyed the same unassailable reputation – it seems that as the popularity of main monitors dwindled (in preference to nearfields), so did JBL's popularity.

I figured JBL were out of the nearfield race almost completely until last year when Greg Simmons and I gave a pair of LSR32s a jolly good thrashing. They were very good. They surprised me, as, until then, I considered JBL nearfields to sound like 'little PAs' – a miniaturisation of JBL's experience in the sound reinforcement arena. Instead, the 32s were accurate enough for serious tracking and some very high SPLs – JBL's time in the nearfield wilderness had drawn to a close.

Well, since then, JBL has applied their LSR technology and research into a self-powered range of nearfields. The LSR28P and the LSR25P – with the 25Ps being under scrutiny here. They've also released a powered sub called the LSR12P, designed to run alongside the LSR28P, 32 and, indeed, the 25P. But, back to the babies of the clan.

They're solid. The cast aluminium casing not only looks impressively sci-fi, it provides rigidity to the baffle and casing, reducing cabinet resonances. The front of the cabinet houses a power switch and an attenuator. The attenuator is detented, which is great news when matching stereo, (or more to the point) multichannel surround levels. The power LED will glow red when the units go into clip. Above is the 5.25-inch bass drivers and two elliptical ports. Above the ports is a titanium composite high frequency driver set back into an elliptical dispersion dish – the Waveguide technology that JBL has championed for years. They've managed to soften the ear-bashing effect of previous titanium designs – the composite material covering the titanium does an admirable job of taming that metallic tizz. Around the back a recessed section houses the IEC power connec-

tion, a balanced XLR input, an RCA input and four dip switches down a rather deep well – no chance of bumping them. As the LSR25Ps are designed to function as 'workstation' monitors, the cabinet is designed so the front angles upward from the desktop, towards the listener. Proportionately, the cabinet looks like an enlarged Control One with a 6.5 litre volume. The cabinet has points for mounting to Omnicrack brackets.

The 25P is bi-amped. The low end driver is driven by a 100W bridged class A-B monolithic design and the titanium is driven by a 50W class A-B monolithic. Frequency response of the units is 70Hz to 20kHz. The bottom end rolls off 3dB at 65Hz and 10dB at 48Hz. The active crossover separates the signal at 2.3kHz. The enclosure's resonance is measured at 55Hz and, combined with the porting, delivers some surprising low end for a speaker of this size.

As I mentioned previously, there are four dip switches mounted in a rather deep well at the rear of the enclosure. Switches 3 and 4 will add or cut 1.5dB above the crossover frequency. Switch 1 will adjust a high pass filter, allowing the bottom to roll off at 40Hz or 80Hz, should a sub be in service. Switch 2 engages 'Workstation Boundary Compensation', a bass and mid cut for when the units are located in close proximity to walls, video monitors and other space cramping situations. Of course, they're magnetically shielded. Stick 'em right next to your screen if you like! It's also worth noting that the 25Ps are available individually, so you won't have to buy three pairs for a surround scenario – they're also THX approved.

In use, I found the LSR25P to be a very capable performer. Up close they delivered a detailed rendition of my favourite 'listening' material. And just like the LSR32s, they provided a very defined centre image and a broad listening sweet spot – both of which underpin the LSR (Linear Spatial Reference) philosophy. It's good to see JBL addressing the ever-growing number of people working in computer-based desktop environments. The design and features are absolutely right for those who don't want to compromise on their sound quality, but where space is at a premium.



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## Price

• \$2500 per pair

