



JBL Control 28-1

With the world of electronics changing so quickly, it's sometimes tough to know what the right choice should be. That's why I think it's always good to choose things that are versatile.

Installed sound can be a bit tricky to get right, especially if you're the recent proprietor of a new shop, bar, restaurant and so forth. Sound dynamics change constantly with moving furniture, opening and closing doors and, of course, people. So it's nice to be able to tweak things until you find your sweet spot.

JBL's installed sound range has a wide variety of solutions for professional fittings.

New to the line-up is the Control Contractor series, which sports, again, a hefty variety of in-ceiling, in-wall and surface mount speakers, including what we're about to have a look at: the Control 28-1 surface mount speakers.

Built for high output either indoors or out, the 28-1s are a two-way design incorporating a 203 mm woven fibreglass woofer and a 25 mm PEI diaphragm tweeter with fluid cooling.

They also feature a weather resistant enclosure (including weather-protected circuitry) and JBL's proprietary 'InvisiBall' mounting hardware, affording adjustment through a discreet, hidden access point

behind the logo badge, which allows you to orientate them without removing the grille.

According to JBL, this also provides a decent level of theft deterrence – happy news for South Africans! The InvisiBall technology allows vertical rotation of up to 37 degrees off-axis, and horizontal rotation of up to 44 degrees off-axis.

The units I had on review were the black version, with an option of white depending on your taste and, more importantly, your colour scheme.

In their black form, they have a neat, straightforward look and feel for a relatively unobtrusive, no-nonsense aesthetic.





From what I've seen online, the white variation feels a bit more sleek and modern and would probably be a bit more of a 'feature' in your set-up, provided it isn't predominantly white. However, the enclosure material easily accepts a variety of different paints, should you want a more custom finish.

Build-quality is predictably impeccable and the feel of the enclosure material leaves one with enough confidence to happily leave them outside indefinitely. Woofer cones are polypropylene-coated and JBL's WeatherEdge terminates its circumference for added weather protection.

The tweeters are also reinforced with a thin film of titanium, which helps protect them against salt, sun and moisture. Lastly, the grilles are coated in zinc so that they don't rust.

The 28-1s feature a power handling rating of 120 watts (240 watts program) in the direct 8 ohm setting, as well as a built-in 60 watts 70V/100V multi-tap transformer. Sonic character is precise and detailed, with a lovely natural balance.

The symmetrical 100° x 100° dispersion is engaging from a distance and emerging up close. I found the bass response tight and enthusiastic with a hint of warmth, but tuned for more of a reference feel, which I always appreciate.

Midrange is crystal clear, especially in the voice department. Vocal-heavy tracks steal the show and movie dialogue is both upfront and smooth. Treble is equally clear and, combined with the midrange, make for an extraordinarily cohesive sound experience.

Overall, the 28-1s are perfectionists



rather than characters, which allows you to really open up the taps without fear of distortion. The handful of times I cranked them up, I was impressed with how incredibly controlled they were.

I enjoyed my time with the 28-1s. It was an interesting experience having a more professional set of speakers set up in a home environment. I really appreciated the break from my usual nuanced hi-fi speakers in favour of a more natural, reference-like experience.

They are really new on the market so I'll be interested to read some other reviews, especially from people who are using them for their intended purpose. Otherwise, it's another stellar performance from JBL.

Justin Beachcroft-Shaw

VITAL STATS

Frequency response 62 Hz – 16 kHz
Power rating240 watts
	Continuous Program (2hrs)
Max input voltage 27,5V RMS
	(2hrs) 55,0V peak
Sensitivity 91 dB, 1W/1m
Coverage angle 100° x 100°
Nominal impedance 8 ohms
Drivers 1x 203 mm woofer,
	1x 25 mm tweeter
Dimensions (HxWxD) 386 x 282 x 219 mm
Net weight6,8 kg each

Verdict

Versatile speakers with wide coverage and rich sound for reliable professional use.

Price R11 990 per pair

Supplied by HFX Systems
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Website www.hfxsystems.com

OUR RATING: 87/100

