

# Sound and style

**M**ost regular readers know that I have a predilection for floor standing speakers, and when I get speakers that look as good as the Mission MV8s, this liking is enhanced.

The MV8s in fact look quite a bit like some of the dearer models from the manufacturer, and this is due to its moulded front panel that gives the speakers their family look.

Looks were in fact quite a plus point of the design, but the work done to get this right, namely the front baffle, brought with it a slight negative too, but more on this a little later on.

I like spikes on speakers, so once again, no one should be surprised that the first thing I did after unpacking the speakers was to attach their spikes.

The next thing I did was to flip the speakers right side up and place them where speakers typically sound good in my room.

I now had to attach speaker cables. And despite the fact that I am usually a bi-wire fan, I was pleased to find only one set of binding posts. One set means that particularly those on a budget need not bother themselves with worrying about buying special speaker cables. Buy one set of decent cables and that's it.

With all connections made, I let the speakers acquaint themselves with my room, cat, and dog, for a few days before I finalised their positioning and began the review proper.

Fortunately the speakers aren't too heavy, so picking them up to move them around was no chore – remember, their spikes were already attached – and I was pleased to find that they weren't too fussy about where they were placed. They sounded good in a variety of positions, barring being put into the corners of the room.

Virtually from the get-go, the Mission MV8s showed that they could do quite a few things really well.



## ■ Vital Stats ■

**Enclosure type** ..... Vented  
**Bi-wiring** ..... No  
**Impedance** ..... 8 ohm  
**Sensitivity** ..... 91 dB  
**Frequency response** ..... 35 Hz – 20 kHz  
**Power handling** ..... 25 – 200 watts  
**Dimensions (WxHxD)**  
 ..... 915 x 188 x 290 mm

**PRICE** ..... R5 880

### VERDICT

The MV8s are attractive speakers that, for the money, deliver on most audio fronts. They are relatively efficient, too and this makes amplifier matching a little easier.

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Firstly, they proved to be fairly efficient, so I could drive them and still get good results even when using modest amplification – a nice aspect for relatively budget speakers.

The speakers were also good at delivering a wide and coherent soundstage that was good at displaying the differences in the dimensions of recording venues.

Sonically, I liked what I heard as well in that the speakers displayed a smooth frequency response from their relatively deep and controlled low frequency extension – no need for a sub in music applications – through their balanced and neutral sounding midrange, and up to their sweet sounding high frequencies.

When compared to my larger and over four times the price speakers, the MV8s came close on midrange clarity and vocal articulation and were just a notch or two away on high frequency detail and spaciousness. I did however feel that some definition might have been lost due to the front baffle, which I could feel vibrating even at modest volume levels.

Ultimately, the MV8s proved to be speakers that were good to listen to, and their slight lack of high frequency detail may even be a bonus when connected to digital player that displays a degree of digital edginess.

**Joel Kopping**