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Funktion One F81

If you're looking for big sound from a small box then the Funktion One F81 might just be for you

Words: Paul Morrissey

Funktion One have been installing their high performance wares in some of the finest nightclubs for over 15 years now. Recent years have seen them get involved in the festival market to great effect and now they're heading for your very own home. That's right: a Funktion One soundsystem in your home studio – how cool is that?

Spec-wise, this compact loudspeaker is fitted with a high-power eight-inch bass driver and a one-inch high frequency driver and will handle 100 watts RMS of power. Please take note, though, the F81 is NOT a powered speaker, so you will need a suitable power amp to drive these beauties.

Made from plywood and finished in the customary Funktion One purple, these do look the business and the powder-coated steel grill really finishes them off. The F81's are supplied with either Speakon connectors or Phoenix screw terminal connectors, depending on your preference and installation requirements. The enclosures are also fitted with suitable threaded mounting holes on both the sides and back. With a relatively small footprint and weighing just over five kilos, it's easy to find space for the F81.

Needless to say, the calibre of Funktion One's high-powered club and touring systems has been carried over to the F81. The

enclosure and drivers of the F81 have been optimised and tuned so no processor or equalization is required. Basically, what you put in is what you hear.

So how do they perform? Well, I had the opportunity to substitute the F81 for my speakers in my own studio set-up so I was listening to them in familiar surroundings for a good comparison. The F81s deliver a clean, flat response and their sonic clarity and imaging are excellent, with very good vocal projection. The twin ports deliver enough bass without colouring the sound but with sufficient punch, and for my studio set-up I found the bass greatly increased when I fitted them on my spiked stands. The design of the enclosure gives a wide dispersion of the sound, so to get the best out of the F81 you do need to be a few feet away from them. Due to the high sensitivity of the drivers you don't need a whopping great amp to drive these speakers and they are very comfortable being driven at high volume for sustained periods.

Don't get Funktion One F81s confused with near field monitors: these speakers have been designed to deliver performance and power, rather than just flat response, so whether you're looking for sound re-enforcement for a small venue or some really nice-sounding speakers for your larger home studio, the Funktion One F81 will not disappoint. **IDJ**



FEATURES

- Compact loudspeaker
- Wide dispersion
- Eight-inch bass driver
- One-inch HF driver
- High passive crossover point to HF driver (4.5kHz)
- High sensitivity
- Plywood enclosure
- 98dB sensitivity
- 8-ohm impedance
- 100W RMS
- Frequency response: 95Hz-19kHz
- 5.2 kg
- Nominal dispersion: 90 x 70 degrees

VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY 18/20

BUILD QUALITY 19/20

EASE OF USE 19/20

VALUE FOR MONEY 15/20

FEATURE SET 16/20

IDJ RATING: 87%

Great sound and build quality with solid, clean performance

ALTERNATIVES

Most of the major speaker companies will make something similar but you will have to balance performance with budget – and the F81 will certainly give you the performance