

**F**BT realises that flexibility is a handy attraction in a crowded and competitive loudspeaker market and the Jolly Series maintains that ethos. Affordability is also a big drawcard, and the Jolly Series scores well in this department as well — essentially, they're the same quality as the MaxX but aren't as well featured.

### Unit Descriptions

The Jolly Series provides three loudspeaker design options (two active and one passive) each with 12-inch, eight-inch and five-inch driver versions (so that's nine models all up) that are compact enough to set up single-handedly for sound reinforcement purposes. The Jolly Series looks good. In fact the baby five-inch version is so cute you just want to give it a hug. Not to say that it needs muddle-coddling... it will doubtlessly find its way into retail installs, and is ideal for AV presentations and satellite speaker use, as well as small- to medium-sized solo and duo performances. Even the larger eight-inch

earth problems. A red LED indicates when the built-in limiter protection cuts in. Finally, a green power indicator displays power status from a switchable IEC power connector.

### In Use

I used both the 12Ba and 8Ba models in a number of applications such as PA and music playback. I found them to pack a heavy punch for their modest dimensions. The frequency response (50Hz to 20kHz for the 12Ba, and 60Hz to 20kHz for the 8Ba) was smooth and detailed. Even with no audio signal present and the volume cranked way up, there wasn't much amp noise to speak of. The Jolly Series cabs use a standard dispersion of 90° (horizontal) and 60° (vertical). This pattern is quite adaptable to most situations, including stage monitor use — I found that using the smaller 8Bas for foldback, complemented the larger 12Ba speakers at FOH quite nicely. With the EQ set flat, the internal electronics seem well matched to using a standard Shure

**KONRAD SKIRLIS**  
*investigates some loud and affordable powered speakers.*

# FBT

# JOLLY SERIES

## LOUDSPEAKERS



Jolly speakers look so nice I attempted to keep them constantly at hand by placing them either side of my computer screen — unfortunately they proved to be too loud and too close! Which leads me to talk output. The 8Ba's maximum SPL (@1m) is a staggering 119dB. This is just above the 'threshold of feeling' — often seen as the last stage before the 'threshold of pain' that can lead to permanent deafness! Indeed, with a bi-amped design, 150W is dedicated to the low-frequency driver and 50W to the high-frequency horn. Considering their size (just over 40cm in height for the eight-inch design) these little chaps chuck it out! The sensitivity of the speakers is a healthy 96dB (@1W/1m). The larger 12Ba models incorporate a 12-inch driver and not surprisingly exhibit an enhanced 123dB maximum SPL and 98dB sensitivity. Again with a bi-amped strength of 250W + 50W for low- and high-frequency drivers respectively, the power/size ratio of these powered boxes is really something special.

The FBT Jolly Series connection interface is a scaled down version of the MaxX range. A Neutrik Combo input accepts both jack (balanced or unbalanced) and XLR connectors. The associated mic/line switch selects between the two and sits just above the XLR link output, allowing additional speakers to be connected. Volume adjustment is via a variable rotary knob that provides +36dB mic gain for both 8Ba and 12Ba models reviewed. Unlike the MaxX range, there is no master volume control and only a two-band shelf EQ (instead of MaxX's three-band). Additionally, a ground lift switch provides an easy solution to potential

SM58 directly, with the on-board mic pre providing plenty of gain before feedback. The larger 12Ba is obviously better suited to bass-heavy programme material, however both boxes would benefit from using the Jolly Series subs in larger environments. The polypropylene surface is sturdy and shaped with rounded edges and a durable grille. Wall or ceiling installation is possible, or boxes can sit independently on a flat surface.

### Conclusion

I was impressed with the MaxX range and I'm equally as impressed with the Jolly Series. The systems are light yet durable, compact yet loud, and give out more than you'd expect for their size. Built-in handles make transportation easy and, best of all, they are reasonably priced. □

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