

# The Morning Star

Venus was the ancient Roman goddess of love and beauty and a glance at EBTB's Venus F floorstanders will make you realise how apt their name is. And when something is pleasing to the eyes as well as the ears, you know you have a winner in your hands.

Beautiful sound from a beautiful looking speaker; this is what every audiophile dreams of. Hence, there is little doubt why Everything But The Box's (EBTB) speakers are considered unique and the Venus F floorstanding speakers were no different.

## OUT OF THE BOX

The Venus F floorstanding speakers came in a huge box. When we opened the packaging and removed the plastic cover from each of the speakers, we were greeted by a pair of dazzling, bright red pair. The speakers are simply extraordinary when it comes to looks, design and form factor. To the more imaginative, the speakers will resemble egg shells or the rear part of a jet engine. The fact is that they stand out brilliantly from the rest of the crowd which is a big USP.

## TECHNOLOGY

The Venus F floorstanding speakers may look like something built by alien minds on a different planet, but the genius behind them is due to the work of the engineers back at Everything But The Box.

When you first lay eyes on the Venus F, you wonder how this wonderful speaker is able to produce a powerful and full-bodied sound. The answer lies in its drivers and its cabinet design. The 1" soft dome tweeter that handles all the crisp high frequencies up to 25kHz is backed up by a 5" Kevlar driver. The mid-bass Kevlar driver handles audio content right down till 48Hz. Bass, as we know, is a product of two things—efficient drivers that move huge amount of air and the body of the speaker. However, the



Venus F doesn't have much of a body to boast of as the drivers and its capsule are housed on a long slender neck. Also, there are not too many drivers here; just one for the mid-range and bass and the other for the high frequencies. This does not mean that the designers had not considered these issues. The solution is ingenious and a good example of efficient utilisation of a speaker's form factor. What happens with the Venus F is that the hollow space of the enclosure increases the internal volume of the entire speaker. This helps the speakers to deliver all the mighty and gut-wrenching, low-end energy without any stress or hiccups. To further help out, the two-way speaker is vented and also has a single pair of gold-plated connectors behind it.

## PERFORMANCE

To determine if the speakers were worth a bang, we used a 60W amplifier and hooked them up using a pair of high-quality speaker cables. With all the connections in place, it was time for us to take our seats and let the performance begin. The grand opening, one which was perfect for the Venus F floorstanding speakers, was Sade's "Morning Bird", which was rich and full of subtle details. The piano notes were percussive with a striking blend of life-like realism in them. The entire experience was quite immersive; the piano was flawlessly reproduced by the floorstanding speakers and Sade's smooth and dynamic voice filled the room with serenity. The speakers managed to craft a brilliant image of Sade—the depth and passion in her vocals could literally be seen as a wide picture that was placed dead centre of both the speakers.

The spatiality and detailing bliss was taken one step ahead when we turned on to Noah And The Whale's 'The First Days Of Spring'. The pounding drums, violin compositions and guitar riffs were replicated with great detailing. Deep and well defined bass from a single driver can compromise the mid-range output of the same driver, but it was hard to believe that a single 5" driver was handling the bass and mid-range section so well. Vocals can get clogged up and sound muddy,



instruments may sound lifeless and the bass may sound boomy, all this is bound to happen on a sub-standard floorstanding speaker, but the Venus F were of a different calibre altogether.

The most evident things about the overall sonic presentation of the floorstanding speakers was its clean sound, open mid-range, crisp highs and deep bass. It was a commendable feat to deliver such a clean and open sound, where the highs time-aligned with the mids and the lows. Because of a tweeter that's placed before the mid-bass driver, most people may get an impression that the highs may arrive at the listener's ears slightly before other frequencies of the audio spectrum. But thanks to the accurate time-alignment technology this was kept in check. The soundstage was wide and coherency of the Venus F was well appreciated. Drum sets were well layered between the speakers, from left to right we could pin-point the precise location of each instrument in the drum sections. Besides drums, the album 'Where The Light Is-Live in Los Angeles' also has a plethora of electronic guitars and John Mayer's brilliant voice. The timbre of the guitars and John's voice was natural without a hint of colouration or artificiality in it.



Lionel D'souza

## Specifications

- DESIGN 2-way Bass Reflex
- DRIVERS 1x1" Silk Dome Tweeter, 1x5" Kevlar-shielded Mid-bass Driver
- FREQUENCY RESPONSE 48Hz-25kHz
- NOMINAL IMPEDANCE 8Ω
- POWER HANDLING 30W
- SENSITIVITY 88dB
- WEIGHT 11.3kg (Each)
- DIMENSIONS



## Everything But The Box Venus F

PRICE	₹ 1,47,000
WARRANTY	5 Years
CATEGORY	Floorstanding Speakers
AESTHETICS	★★★★★
BUILD	★★★★★
AUDIO	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★★
VFM	★★★★★

**WHAT SAY AV?**  
If you are on the hunt for a pair of floorstanding speakers to wow friends and guests every time they enter your living room, then the Venus F are the ones you want. They dazzle you and if you go beyond their looks, their sonic footprint does the same thing. Tight room-filling bass, open and energetic mid-range, pristine highs and a balanced tonality make it an impressive piece of hardware. Its high price may be a low point though, but great and matchless looking pair of speakers like these always come at a premium price.

**OVERALL** ★★★★★