



## JBL OnBeat Xtreme | Speaker dock | £500

# JBL looks to worry the 'premium' dock big guns

If you're forking out £500 for an iPod dock, you expect a certain standard of build, finish and features. JBL does the job nicely here with its Bluetooth-enabled OnBeat Xtreme dock. Sporting twin mid/bass drivers and tweeters in a quirky 'crossed-arms' enclosure, it's an eye-catching affair - and thankfully it doesn't feel plasticky or cheap. That goes for the well laid-out remote control, too.

### Decent low-end clout and detail

Docking our iPod Touch into the supplied (sadly rather fiddly and flimsy) rotating clamp, we got the ball rolling with a blast of *Chan Chan* by the Buena Vista Social Club. There's certainly no shortage of low-frequency heft here - impressive, given the OnBeat's relatively small drivers. The detail present in the sweet midrange and treble is rarely swamped by this, though; if anything the midrange could do with a little tempering at higher volumes.

Individual instruments are given plenty of breathing space, although vocals sometimes sound a little

damped when the going gets really complicated. Dynamics are handled with no alarms, though, and there's plenty of scope to go loud should you fancy a little neighbour-baiting.

Uncouple your source and pair it with the OnBeat via Bluetooth (a quick, painless task) and results are decent given the constraints of the technology. There's a little hiss and a slight drop in clarity, but it's

### USE IT WITH

#### Apple iPod Touch

Dock it, stream from it and even use it to access internet radio - the perfect partner



certainly nothing worth complaining about too much. You can even make and receive phone-calls via the dock's built-in microphone. Sound quality here is fine, and voices are picked up well for the person on the other end.

This is a great-looking, well-thought-out and versatile unit that would serve more than adequately as a replacement for any ageing micro system. It should certainly worry the likes of NAD and B&W, too...



### Rating ★★★★★

**FOR** Sounds great; lovely design and build; feature packed; wireless works well

**AGAINST** Midrange can become hard at high volumes; flimsy device clamps

**VERDICT** A fun-looking, fun-sounding dock that's worth every penny of its asking price

### Needs to beat

#### NAD Viso 1 £500 ★★★★★

This impressive newcomer to the dock family is a sonic success

