



The CDT CL61 consists of a pair of 6.5-inch mid/woofers, a pair of 2.5" tweeters and a pair of matching crossovers. The crossovers are adjustable to one of three different settings for the tweeter output. Unpacked and sitting in front of me, first impressions were: nothing astonishing here, virtually no "bling" to be seen, not a lot of weight and looking very austere in their all black finish. However from all the information that was obtained prior I knew they would perform. The question was how well?

Further examination of the 6.5-inch mid-woofer revealed a very strong design, a very stiff and strong paper cone, obviously designed for high quality sound, with a butyl rubber surround meaning you'll have no problems with deterioration for years to come. Construction of this type makes the cone material particularly responsive and very clear which means that it does exactly what the amp signal tells it to do when wired to an amp. With a power handling of 160 watts RMS, factory head units typically have an output of about 30 watts. Powered this way, the CL61's sounded very nice and I was impressed, though not an optimal output as it was obvious they are capable of a lot more.

Using an 800 watt amplifier to power the speakers brought a huge increase in sound quality and made it easy to evaluate these speakers' strengths. The difference could be heard in every single aspect of the sound that was being produced. Crystal clear mid-range frequencies, sharp and clear high-frequencies, but what really surprised me was the bass, it's not deep bass but the bass that was produced was a perfect way to integrate all the sound that was being produced, it made it 'POP'. With some tuning of the amp and crossovers the tweeter attenuation brought further improvements. The differences in the tweeter settings are easily noticeable and all three settings provide exactly what they advertise, without any deterioration in treble quality. The +3dB setting offered the most enjoyable high frequency response in this particular setup, as the client I had installed them for enjoyed classical music. If possible during install, you'd want to leave the tweeters in a moveable position, until you've dialled in the soundstage to your liking. Unfortunately in this case it was not an option as the client wanted them in the factory location. However they still blew me away with the quality of the sound, the staging was absolutely brilliant. The only fault I could hear was that the tweeters were a fraction too sharp and in your face, however in saying that I didn't have the opportunity to 'run in' the speakers prior to the install. After a month I returned to retune the system, by this stage the tweeters had calmed down significantly and the sound, for me, was at a perfect balance. The client was in agreeance, so only very minor adjustments were made.

In conclusion, I believe that the CDT CL61 speakers do all of the important things very well indeed. Quite simply, I had high expectations for these speaker and was using my experience with Morel speakers as a guide, as Morel in my books was and still is a very high quality brand. But the CDT CL61's blew the roof of my expectations, the speakers performed well beyond what I thought they would. It won't be the system you show off to your mates when they sit in your car or that you show off at a car show or show 'n' shine. But if you're the type of buyer that cares about the quality of the research, design and construction of your speakers, I don't think you could do any better than the CDT CL61's for a speaker that has a retail value of under \$400 AUS. It is a sure-fire winner in many ways, CDT has adopted the age old saying "keep it simple" with these speakers and it shows. They set out to produce a high sound quality speaker and that's exactly what they have done. The 'bells and whistles' are not required to 'jazz' these speakers up. The crisp, clean sound that is produced sells itself.

