



DEEP NEW YORK, ADVANCED AUDIO TECHNOLOGY

The impossibly crisp system at upstart club Deep is custom to the core, from the enclosures, to the over 200 independent drivers, to the whole damned DJ booth. "When we started the design, we took the approach that many smaller drivers make up the output of larger ones, in turn giving you speed and agility," says Lodi. "The result is a tight sound over the whole frequency spectrum, with the utmost clarity and earthshaking output." The main system is a five-way line array using bass reflex and short-throw horn-loading, with eight full range tops (each with 9 drivers), six locations of subs (each with eight 18" drivers), and six locations of stainless steel tweeter pods across the rectangular dancefloor. Made of heavy-duty Finlandian birch, the speaker enclosures weigh between 300 and 400 pounds. Drivers are mostly from Italy's B&C, with amplification from Crown and processing from BSS and dbx. Lodi also handcrafted the DJ booth, with lots of motorization (the Pioneer CDJ-1000's slide forward Jetsons-style at the touch of a button), three-way sound, and other bells and whistles for the serious jock. "The booth was built with almost 20 full sheets of Finlandian birch ply and about 20 coats of paint," says Lodi. "We're still recuperating from all the sanding." —KLM



STEREO MONTREAL, SBS

There are key phrases to keep in mind when talking about the next generation of Stereo's sound, the least of which is not "no budget restrictions." Charged with maintaining and upgrading the already lauded system, New Jersey-based soundman Shorty (of Systems By Shorty) worked with DJ David Morales to make the room "sound very warm, like a huge home hifi sound system with a big bottom that runs through you like a Mack truck, with a sizzle on the top end." And that meant adding some serious vintage gear to the club's preexisting 14-foot, Steve Dash-built, extension-equipped Bertha stacks ("Levan style"), including TAD drivers, Bryston and McIntosh amps, Shorty's own custom horn-loaded cabinets and tweeter arrays, and modified RLA crossovers. The perfect rectangle of a room (65' x 40') features a DJ booth back-centered off the floor and about 20 feet up, with no delay — "You can literally mix without the monitors if necessary" — and a custom roll-in drawer cabinet for the Pioneer CDJ-1000s (which, according to Shorty, are hardly used). Such attention to jock comfort and sonic detail is necessary for an after-hours club that features marathon DJ sets. "I mean, we open at 3 am Saturday morning and sometimes go till Monday morning," says Shorty. "So we needed a sound system that would not let you leave the room all fatigued with your ears ringing." And that's only the beginning. —KLM



ICE LAS VEGAS, SOUND INVESTMENT

Contrary to its name, Ice sounds warm and inviting. Every room in this Las Vegas superclub offers an exquisite listening experience, thanks to an audio installation designed and carried out by Chicago's Sound Investment. First-time visitors immediately notice the impressive Ultra Dance Stacks surrounding the main dancefloor, but Ice actually has Funktion-One speakers everywhere — in the DJ booth, the walk-up bar, both lounges, and both VIP rooms. Customized XTA DP226 "magic box" controllers are also used in each room, and amplification is provided by a mixture of Crest (for the subwoofers) and MC2 (for everything else). Up in the booth, DJs will find Technics turntables, Denon CD decks, and a Steve Dash SDX3000 rotary mixer. And according to club management, Vegas locals, curious tourists, vacationing club kids, and superstar DJs all agree — the Ice sound system rocks. "We're not looking for a system with an exaggerated frequency response," Sound Investment principal Dan Agne explains. "Our approach, in the end, is sonic accuracy. Transparency of the system. To accurately convey the audio source." Mission accomplished. —JL



pending Core Technologies design, produce rich, full bass down to 18 Hz. And Tonic's ergonomically-correct DJ booth features two Hagerman Class A triode vacuum tube preamps, an Allen & Heath Xone mixer, and...well, you get the idea. Tonic is the ultimate in audiophile customization for nightclubs. —JL

TONIC CHARLOTTE, CORE TECHNOLOGIES

Metropolitan hipsters and brand name loyalists may scoff, but a single visit to Tonic will likely change your perceptions of audio perfection — just ask DJ Lee Burrige and other visiting high-profile jocks. Dubbed the Sirius Sound system, and designed by Bill Weir and Core Technologies, Tonic's system was the first of its kind to be installed in a nightclub. Powered by 11,000 watts worth of Crown amplification, the club's custom subwoofers and planar speakers produce a listening experience unlike any other. According to Weir, this is because the tall, thin, high-mid speakers produce only a tenth of the inherent harmonic distortion of conventional designs. the planar system also provides "extremely wide dispersion in the horizontal plane and very tight pattern control in the vertical plane," which Weir says minimizes "bad-sounding floor and ceiling reflections." The subwoofers, a Patent-