

BEST SOUND PRODUCT



CD SERIES AMPLIFIERS, CREST AUDIO

Meet the Crest CD Series, a family of "elevated efficiency" amplifiers that combine traditional linear power supplies with Class D switching output circuitry, to deliver the goods in a compact, lightweight, and cost-effective manner. CD Series amps offer users up to 3,600 watts of power, and come equipped with ground-lift switches and rear-mounted circuit breakers. All of the amplifiers in the CD Series have numerous input/output options, as well as Crest's exclusive Active Clip Limiting, Instantaneous Gain Modulation, and Autoramp circuitry. Other protective features include short circuit detection, thermal management, a variable-speed cooling fan, and both subsonic and ultrasonic filters. Finally, just to show off a little, the CD Series amplifiers feature stylish aluminum faceplates. —*JL*



DANCE STACK, FUNKTION-ONE

Funktion-One's Dance Stack speaker system was designed specifically for the modern nightclub environment. Since the firm's larger touring systems have been enthusiastically embraced by exacting artists like the Chemical Brothers, Leftfield, and Massive Attack, the club-oriented Dance Stack is a natural addition to the prestigious Funktion-One product line. "My love of dance music goes back to the original release of 'Papa's Got A Brand New Bag,'" explains Funktion-One creator Tony Andrews, "so I have an intrinsic affinity for dance culture." Using a "stack" of custom components, Andrews has created a five-way speaker system capable of stunning clarity and volume — as anyone who's ever been to Maze in Miami Beach or Ice in Las Vegas can attest. In keeping with Funktion-One's philosophy, the high-fidelity Dance Stack is also highly-efficient, due to what Andrews describes as a "holistic combination of driver and waveguide for maximum conversion of amplifier energy into acoustic energy." And the system looks as good as it sounds, due to its radical design. "Let's say that we took advantage of the shapes that have emerged from the function of our technologies," remarks Andrews. —*JL*

KF730 SLAM SMALL LINE ARRAY, EAW



The EAW KF730 Small Line Array Module (SLAM) is part of a growing trend among loudspeaker manufacturers and nightclub sound installers to adapt stadium sound concepts for use in smaller venues. When used as directed, multiple KF730 SLAM cabinets are rigged together to form an array. The collective acoustic output of the modules is then precisely focused or dispersed by varying the angles between the individual units. The result is smooth, vibrant sound everywhere in the room. To achieve this goal without taking up valuable dancefloor real estate, EAW managed to create a flyable, three-way, six-driver, horn-loaded box that set a new record for output per cubic meter. "The KF730 was designed to make optimal use of cabinet space," explains Jeff Rocha, Director of Loudspeaker Design at EAW. "Visually, it's very different, but the performance characteristics are improved dramatically." The KF730 SLAM can be arrayed in various ways — up to 15 modules in a flown, vertical stack — to provide superior sound for 50, 500, or even 5,000 people. As a bonus for club audio technicians, the nominal 16-ohm impedance of each module allows a single, heavy-duty, two-channel amplifier to power eight of these loudspeakers. —*JL*



W8LC LINE ARRAY, MARTIN AUDIO

As part of the premium Martin Audio Wavefront Series, the W8LC is descended from a well-respected family of touring loudspeaker systems. This new speaker follows the same design philosophy as its big brother, the W8L, uniting leading-edge line array technology with proven horn-loading principles to create a powerful, accurate, and compact enclosure for nightclub use. The high-efficiency, three-way W8LC system may be flown or ground-stacked, and is acoustically compatible with its Wavefront kin. Like the W8L, the visually-arresting W8LC features an asymmetrical design. Because of its unusual layout, both the high- and mid-frequency horns are able to function as truly separate devices, resulting in more consistent horizontal pattern control. The highs are reproduced by an unusual threesome of one-inch, low-curvature horn elements, while the mids are handled by a pair of Martin Audio's proprietary 6.5" Hybrid horns. The extended low end of the W8LC (down to 60 Hz) comes from the Hybrid horn-loaded 12" driver. All together, the W8LC features a true 90 degree (-6 dB) horizontal dispersion angle throughout its range, which should make life easier for club sound installers. —JL



TSB-110 SUBWOOFER, TURBOSOUND

TSB-110 represents something of a departure for industry heavyweight Turbosound. Although the firm is world-renowned for its concert speaker systems, this particular dual-coil 10" band-pass subwoofer has been created to bring some serious low-frequency funk to lounges and smaller clubs. The TSB-110 is relatively small (less than two cubic feet) and light (36 pounds), but it's still capable of producing up to 126 dB (peak) SPL due to the porting of its two dissimilar internal compartments. This subwoofer is also built to endure the slings, arrows, and beer bottles of outrageous fortune – the rugged enclosure is constructed from 5/8" Baltic birch plywood and finished in stain- and scratch-resistant black textured paint. The compact size of the TSB-110 makes it possible to discreetly install this subwoofer under bars, stages, or even seating. The clever passive crossover circuitry of the TSB-110 allows users to connect up to four satellite speakers per channel, so integrating this speaker into an existing system should be simple. —JL