

ACTIVE
PA SYSTEM

Dynacord D-Lite activetwo

Delightful

Compact, easily portable sound reinforcement material tends to be dismissed as 'junk for solo entertainers', just because the cabinets aren't clumsy and heavy—"how else could they rock?" It's a prejudice long past its 'sell by' date. Dear Readers, Welcome to the 21st century where things are very different. Small can rock—and how!

It's a well-known dilemma: on the one hand, you want to save on weight and volume; on the other, you want your only PA to be capable of delivering high quality sound with sufficiently high sound pressure levels to cover any gig you might be offered. But whilst until recently the reconciliation of the two conflicting demands seemed a long way off, that is no longer the case, because the small and easy-to-carry satellite systems being produced today can really rock. We are presenting just such a system here, for the Dynacord D-Lite activetwo fits squarely into this category.

The D-Lite series comprises three sets and our test system, the D-Lite activetwo, marks the middle of the series. The set is made up of two really compact and almost cubical PowerSub 112 subwoofers and their companion D 8A satellites. Both components have in addition to digital power amplifiers all the requisite processing on board, so no external equipment is needed for un-

problematic operation. Whilst the PowerSub 112 subwoofer offers the usual line input and output, the D 8A top offers two direct inputs. Balanced and intended, respectively, for line and microphone level signals, these could be used to connect a microphone and a playback device for a minimal sound reinforcement application. Naturally there is also an output to loop the signal through; both of the D 8A's inputs can be used simultaneously.

Let's take a closer look at the tops of the D-Lite series. As cabinet material, plastic is used. Especially with such compact enclosures, this is an ever more popular and logical choice. It allows many of the mounted parts—handles, for example—to be integrated directly into the cabinets; such components as tweeters or separate

components for amplifier modules can also be directly incorporated. Such is also the case with our test candidate: the D 8A possesses an integrated handle on the long side; stacking feet and a stand adapter are also directly integrated into the housing. All in all, the cabinet has a slim and elegant appearance. A grille provides seamless protection for the baffle and underlines the fine initial impression. As alternative to use on a raised stand or a spacing pole, incidentally, a wide range of rigging accessories are available for flying the Dynacord D 8A. Anyone who is looking therefore for the right accessories for an installation or wants greater flexibility when



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- **Equipment** 12"/8"/1" active satellite system
- **Power** 200 W RMS / 400 peak (bass) per side, 2 x 200 W RMS (top)
- **Frequency range** 40 Hz – 20 kHz (-10 dB)
- **SPL** 124 dB max. 94 dB (1W/1m)
- **Nominal coverage angle** 90° x 90°
- **Connections** XLR balanced (Mic and Line)
- **Dimensions** 280 x 440 x 260 mm, (top), 440 x 380 x 440 mm (bass)
- **Weight** 11 kg (top), 20 kg (bass)

touring will certainly find the desired accessories for this box. On the rear, the D 8A top offers a recessed connector panel with two inputs and one output. Simple but functional, both inputs offer level control and a Limit LED to warn against overheating the integrated power ampli-

hardware side, there are two recessed bowl handles and an adapter for a spacing pole as well as rubber feet at the bottom and stacking depressions at the top. Whatever else you might be looking for, you'll find it, either the cabinet or on it. Speaking of 'on it', a quick look at the connector panel: here, too, there is a line input with level control alongside a parallel output; the connector panel additionally offers a second output with a switched low cut filter. Here, then, you can connect active tops directly, which will then no longer be working full-range but instead receive a signal already free from bass.

Enough of the dull theory: we want to know, after all, what the D-Lite activetwo is capable of in real life. For test purposes, we therefore took the system along to our next club gig. The programme included a small blues session with the usual instrumentation: a couple of vocalists, a few guitars, keyboard, bass and drums—the latter, understandably, were not fed through the PA as the venue was too small for that to be necessary. The test system did, however, have to cope with the sounds of the keyboard, the vocals and a variety of stringed instruments—all of which it managed very nicely first go. No sooner unpacked, the combination of top and subwoofer delivered a beau-



The back of the device accommodates all the control elements and connections: Dynacord PowerSub112 (above) & D 8A (below)

ly to be a little lacking in power; the limiter intervenes visibly and audibly and protects the system. Fortunately this intervention remains on a thoroughly acceptable level.

What remains, are a lot of satisfied faces—both on the stage and in the audience. Especially after packing up, even though this is not generally regarded as the most enjoyable of tasks. With the test system, the amount of work involved here is kept nicely within bounds—the subwoofer and tops can be carried easily by one person, so they are easy to handle and only take a jiffy to stow away.

✕ Uli Hoppert

» The subwoofer and tops can be carried easily by one person and are also easy to operate.«

fiers and electronics. The D 8A offers no tone controls but there is a switchable low cut filter that takes care of the requisite tone correction when the device is operated together with a subwoofer. The D 8A top draws its power from a naturally removable but commendably lockable power cord of the Volex variety. Extra points are scored for the length of the cable supplied: fully five metres long, the power cable is long enough to obviate the need for an extension, even when the loudspeaker stand is fully extended.

Let's move on to the bass, although here as is to be expected there is less to report. The PowerSub 112 is almost cubical—and very compact with it. A single 12" driver does its job without taking up too much room, and the digital power amplifier in the rear of the enclosure delivers 200 watts RMS to drive the subwoofer. As material for the cabinet, the classic choice, wood, is used, with a structured paint finish plus a protective grille for the baffle. I can honestly say the overall effect is no less elegant than that of the plastic outfit sported by the top. On the

tifully round tone and it has quite some power to offer. The tops perform in a particularly relaxed manner, and when you look under the bonnet, no wonder! The D 8A boasts a maximum output of 800 watts and therefore always has plenty in reserve; the limit LED on this box, at least when it is used as a satellite, is destined for a very easy existence. Alongside it, the motor compartment of the subwoofer seems comparatively sparse, though here too an RMS output of 200 watts and a maximum output of 400 watts are available. In an age in which people like to unleash wattages in four digits on bass loudspeakers, that naturally seems somewhat frugal, but that's not something that strikes you when you listen to it. In fact the subwoofer of the system delivers a pleasantly vibrant, crisp and round sonic image that goes wonderfully with that of the satellite. Infinitely deep reggae bass lines are not its thing, but at its nominal level it sounds fresh and full. When something more is needed or the keyboard castle demands a bass-heavy tribute, then the PowerSub 112 seems occasional-

AUF EINEN BLICK

Dynacord D-Lite activetwo

Distributor Bosch/EVI Audio
www.dynacord.com

Price (RRP) 3.333 €

- ▲ high-quality production
- ▲ tops sound highly musical
- ▲ subwoofer is compact
- ▣ subwoofer could do with a tad more in reserve