

L-Acoustics, a proven leader in the world of high-end speaker systems, has had a strong presence in the concert touring industry with the V-DOSC line array system over ten years. It is widely accepted that L-Acoustics pioneered the contemporary line array, taking little known technology and developing the concept into a style of speaker system that has virtually revolutionised the modern concert sound industry.

L-Acoustics actually manufactures more than just a big line array speaker and a little line array speaker. It makes conventional trapezoidal speaker cabinets, as well as the new 115XT HiQ monitor speaker.

soon dismissed. We listened in amazement as the HiQ sounded wonderful as a drum wedge, replicating kick drum, snare and high hat with total clarity and power. As vocals and bass were added to the mix, we grew even more enamored with the HiQ. For the second show of the evening, we changed its location to keyboard monitor. The results were undeniable – this little wedge rocks.

The next evening with Starship, we employed the L-Acoustics speaker as a vocal wedge for Mickey Thomas, and we were knocked out with the vocal clarity and range of frequency response. The relative lack of radical EQ on that particular mix was noted as well, as the 115XT HiQ achieved a good volume before a hint of feedback.

**L-Acoustics doesn't just line arrays. WILL JAMES takes a wedge to the edge and back again.**

# L-ACOUSTICS

## 115XT HiQ

### MONITOR SPEAKER



#### Features

The 115XT HiQ is part of the XT family of speakers from L-Acoustics. The 115XT is an 80 degree dispersion speaker and the HiQ version is a 50 degree dispersion speaker. The HiQ is a dual-element, biamped, coaxial system, featuring a 15-inch cone speaker and a three-inch voice coil with a 1.4-inch exit compression driver. The 15-inch cone speaker is a front-loaded reflex device and the compression driver is a titanium diaphragm device. The components are of a very high output, and the manufacturer recommends 450W rms at 8Ω for the woofer and 125W rms at 8Ω to the driver. In the owner's manual, L-Acoustics goes into quite a bit of detail describing the appropriate powering structure and recommended processors/filters and their settings for optimum output of the 115XT; in fact, specific brands of processors have these settings incorporated in preset libraries available direct from the factory. L-Acoustics rates the operating frequency range as being 50Hz to 20kHz, with a 50 degree symmetrical radiating pattern, or 25 degrees either side of center.

The actual cabinet is comprised of 13-layer Baltic birch, finished in the classic L-Acoustics Brown, and has two angles for monitor use, a closefield angle of 60 degrees upwards, and a not-so-closefield angle of 30 degrees upwards. In addition, a steel insert is provided on both sides of the cabinet for tripod mounting the 115XT, or even using a proprietary attachment for rigging, making it a dual use speaker system with a most convenient size. The cabinet measures 22in x 14in x 17in (WxHxD).

#### In Use

I have reviewed L-Acoustics products before so I had very high expectations. On our first trial run with the HiQ, I decided to really torture it straight from the box, by plugging it in as a drum monitor. My company was providing audio production for Mickey Thomas and Starship at Harrah's Casino.

The drummer expressed initial trepidation at the relatively small size of the cabinet being indicative of the lack of oomph as a drum wedge. His trepidations were

We tried out this little gem a few more times, as a stage monitor speaker, a centre fill, and a stand-alone speaker on a tripod stand. The results as a tripod-mounted single speaker were most impressive, with clean, even coverage within the 50 degree HiQ pattern. But where this speaker really shines is as a front fill speaker. Using the 115XT as the top (mid and high) of a three-way system, picking up where the FOH mains left off, was possibly its most impressive test. The ability to blend with the mains was seamless and smooth. We had patched it directly from an auxiliary send on the FOH console and forgot to engage the insert for the EQ, and later found that we never needed the EQ at all. The sound quality of the 115XT HiQ as a front fill was never edgy or abrasive, even right up close to it.

#### Conclusion

The 115XT HiQ speaker would make a most suitable companion to the V-DOSC line array and the quality of workmanship makes it a most roadworthy cabinet. With its low profile, good looks, and wonderful sound, you will be happy with this system. **AM**

#### INFORMATION

📞 L-Acoustics 115XT £1610 + VAT; From \$2600 + Tax.

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