

TURBOSOUND

Milan M15

Turbosound combine hi-end specs with portability in the form of this powerful 450w powered speaker enclosure. **Words:** Tim Slater

We've reviewed plenty of active speaker enclosures in PM but the Turbosound Milan M15 represents an example of how a company that is usually associated with expensive high-end PA equipment is attempting to cross over (no pun intended) into a wider market. Due to publication deadlines we only got to spend a few hours in the company of the M15s but we still managed to gain a pretty thorough impression of what these speakers are capable of and whether or not they represent good value to working bands in these price-conscious times.

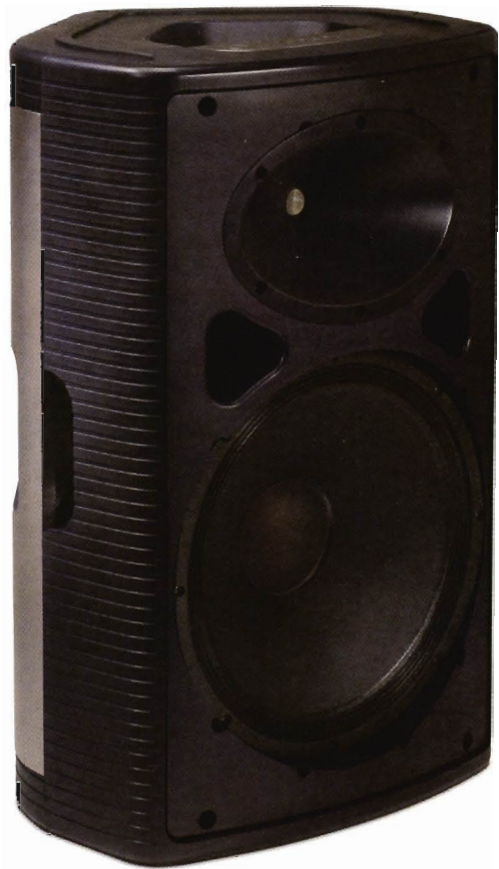
Class act

At 450 watts each, the Milan M15 is a powerful full range active speaker enclosure that appears to be tailor made for busy semi-professional and professional bands that regularly play in decent sized venues (as opposed to focusing purely on the odd weekend gig down the local pub). Standing 720mm high x 470mm wide by 400mm deep the M15s have an impressive stature, a pair of them will still fit fairly snugly into the back of an estate car, but despite their imposing physical dimensions they

still only weigh-in at 22kgs each. One adult can still carry a single Milan enclosure very comfortably and Turbosound claim that the crucial weight-saving is thanks to the Milans ultra lightweight 15-inch Neodymium low frequency and one-inch Neodymium high frequency compression drivers, combined with a sturdy scratch resistant polypropylene gas injected moulded enclosure.

The enclosure is designed to double as either a main front-of-house PA stack or full range wedge monitors – a trapezoidal profile tilts the speakers upwards at a 43 degree angle when the enclosures are laid flat, perfect for the lead guitarist to rest their foot on for their Big Solo – but these cabs are probably a tad too large to use on the floor of your local pub venue. On a proper raised stage they will blend in a treat and the chassis includes multiple setup options thanks to dual angle pole mounts and 6 threaded rigging points that enable the speakers to be 'flown' as part of a line-array type system.

The power comes via a 450 watt class D amplifier, (the 'D' in class D doesn't stand for digital; it is just a way of classifying the power amp efficiency) linked to a digital sound processor with external level controls and rotary parametric and shelving EQ. The rear mounted control panel also includes a pair of mic/line inputs linked to a three-LED display that lights up when the cabs are powered-up whilst also indicating the signal strength and whether the internal limiter is active. The limiter automatically prevents sudden signal peaks from damaging the drivers. There is also a mix-output that links the Milan to the inputs



on a second Milan loudspeaker. Hooking up a second Milan M15 also provides an extra mic or line input in the unlikely event that you arrive at the gig to find that you've forgotten your mixer!

Powered up...

As I say, we didn't have very long to test the Milan M15s but we ran them up using the MP3 input and tested them using a selection of pre-recorded tracks ranging in

musical styles from classic rock to 70s funk and disco through to modern dance music.

Besides producing prodigious volume the Milans also have a phenomenal low-end. Compared to the harsh grainy sound of some low cost enclosures – particularly with prerecorded music - the Milans sounded warm and smooth, no doubt aided in part by the generous headroom afforded by the 450 watt power amp. **PM**

SHOULD I BUY ONE?

These speakers still represent a considerable investment for any semi-professional band but they look the part and easily have heaps of power to spare. Besides the powerful bass response the midrange and upper frequencies also sound pin-sharp and very transparent. The only thing that you might need to be careful of is inadvertently playing too loud; when the sound quality is this good it is sometimes harder to judge whether or not you are at the limit of what most people judge as an acceptable volume level.

Like we say, these Turbosound speakers are not exactly cheap and you need to be a committed working musician to justify spending this sort of money but in this instance the adage 'you get what you pay for' definitely rings true.

TURBOSOUND Milan M15

SRP per pair £1599.00

All prices include VAT

CONTACT

SCV London

T: 020 8418 1470

W: www.scvlondon.co.uk