

tools
MAGAZIN FÜR MUSIK UND EQUIPMENT

tools4music 1.2012,
from J. M. di Sari

Good and Cost-effective

Test: PAB-115MK2 and PAB-110MK2 from IMG Stage Line

[...] The Facts!

Fortunately, IMG Stage Line already provided the test samples a little time ago. Thus, I was able to test the candidates thoroughly under laboratory conditions. We specifically tested the passive **PAB-115MK2** from IMG Stage Line in a plastic trapezoid cabinet of a straightforward design. The item number of the tested speaker system already indicates the speaker configuration of a 15" bass speaker and a 1" tweeter. [...]

Plastic Cabinet

The positive features include an integrated horn tweeter, a full front grille for the bass speaker as well as flying points and recessed grips for stacking. The system also impresses by a securable flange at the bottom of the cabinet for stand mounting and the recessed connection panel of the speaker system. [...]

Inside Out?

The key advantage over the reader and user is that we are able to have an unrestricted look into the systems and turn them inside out on the workbench [...]. Rather than visiting the local music dealer because you used a cordless screwdriver, [...] we would like to take this opportunity to talk a little bit about the inner life of our test candidates. We are approaching the **PAB-115MK2** from the connection side.

The aluminium plate can be removed by unscrewing eight screws. Now, we have a clear view on the crossover network of the speaker system which is attached directly to the rear side of the connection panel and securely held by four metal brackets. The crossover network already gets the thumbs up from our tester because solid components have been used instead of excessive material. Thick PCB material, solid capacitors and massive coils divide the operating ranges between bass speaker and tweeter. The cement resistors required for level adjustments are mounted to the PCB board leaving a generous gap to ensure adequate ventilation. After all, the system must be able to provide a solid performance with a maximum power rating of up to 600 W. Given the design of the crossover network, this will be no problem at all. [...] The impressive bass speaker features a solid aluminium basket and a drive of a delightful



tools

MAGAZIN FÜR MUSIK UND EQUIPMENT
tools4music 1.2012,
from J. M. di Sari

appearance. This also applies to the tweeter which is of a high-quality design. According to the sales department, we can expect a 1" dome with a 2" voice coil. IMG Stage Line really knows the meaning of noble understatement because even far more expensive competitors often classify these components as 2" speakers already. [...] For the sake of completeness, I should also mention that the inputs and outputs of the **PAB-115MK2** feature Speakon-compatible jacks. As customary with 4-pole versions which have also been applied to this speaker system, the contacts 1+ and 1- have been assigned, the contacts 2+ and 2- are through-connected at the input side and output side.

[...] First of all, I provide the overview report, e.g. handling of the new PAB speaker systems. Short and precise description: top marks, [...]. The rest is almost unspectacular and is easily done: put them onto a stand, connect them and use the crank handle – ready for use. Put the CD in and off you go – with a high-power performance. [...] The PAB speaker systems provide a very pleasant sound, a full fat bass, a prominent midrange and a clear reproduction of the high frequencies. [...] The controller in the rack features a low-cut filter at 40 Hz for preventing unrequired rumbling noise and providing the **PAB-115MK2** with a reliable bass range in good time before the band arrives. [...] now we reach the second round of our live test. We waste little time on a sound check and immediately start rocking, as the unit is more of a fun component rather than fine art. [...] Musicians are impressed by the features of the two **PAB-115MK2** speaker systems. Provides a fat and perfect sound of high volumes, pleasantly effortless – one cannot complain. These speaker systems are a perfect choice at an attractive price. [...]

Final Comments

The principle: a good sound at an attractive price. As an alternative to our test candidates, the new PAB series from IMG Stage Line also includes speakers of 8", 10" and 12". The **PAB-110MK2** which was also available for the test was the DJ's favourite that evening – as an unobtrusive floor monitor speaker at work.

Pros & Cons

- + Well tuned sound
- + Protective covers of neat workmanship as accessories
- + Attractive price
- + Solid tool
- Acoustic foam in front of the bass speaker would be nice
- Setscrew for the stand appears to be a little fiddly