

DJ TIMES

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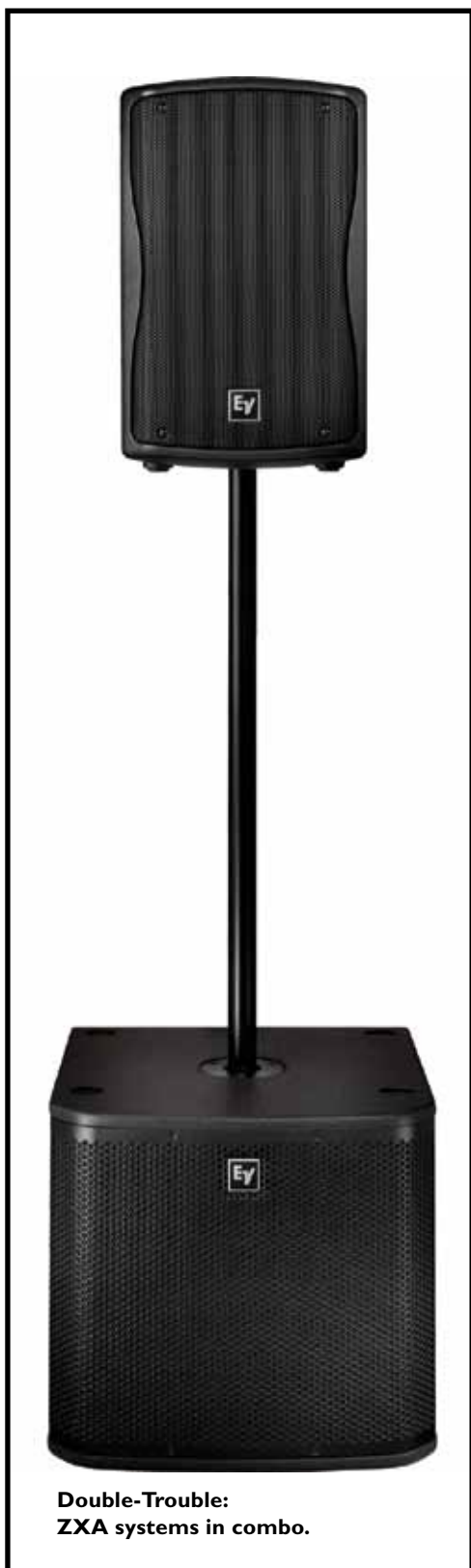
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- TRITONAL ■ EROL ALKAN
- IZOTOPE'S IRIS ■ ELECTRO-VOICE ACTIVE SPEAKERS
- WEDDING DJs & THEIR WEBSITES

By Jody Amos

ELECTRO-VOICE'S POWERED PAIR



Double-Trouble:
ZXAI systems in combo.

For super-portable applications, Electro-Voice has given us a pair of terrific active-loudspeaker solutions this year—the ZXAI-90 8-inch 2-way speaker and ZXAI-Sub compact 12-inch subwoofer.

This powered series is derived from Electro-Voice's best-selling ZXI passive speakers. Weighing in at just 19 pounds for the main and 46 pounds for the sub, the new ZXAI series probably packs more punch per pound, than any other speaker on the market.

And don't let their sizes fool you. With a clean 128 dB maximum SPL, these are well-built speakers that (according to the company) will out-perform just about any other speaker in its class (and maybe a class above). If portability and quality is of value to you for small-format performances, head to your local retailer and check these babies out.

The ZXAI-90 is a 2-way active speaker sporting the EV8L 12-inch woofer and a 1-inch DH205 titanium diaphragm true compression driver. The ZXAI-90 loudspeaker is powered by an integrated 800-watt, class-D, lightweight amplifier giving you 60Hz-20kHz frequency response at -3dB. The amp has quality Neutrik jacks, including an XLR microphone-level input with independent volume control, a combo XLR/TRS line-level input, and an XLR line-level output for daisy-chaining other speakers or adding a sub.

The bi-amplified design features steep crossover slopes and woofer excursion protection for maximum output and reliability. A switchable high-pass filter allows for use with the ZXAI-SUB.

The injection-molded enclosure, on the ZXAI-90, is made from high-impact ABS for durability and it's lightweight.



Big Punch:
E-V's ZXAI-90 top.

ZXAI-Sub: E-V's big bottom.

The small handle pocket on the upper back side keeps the unit compact, which makes it ideal for many portable applications.

Electro-Voice gives users three convenient ways to use this speaker: a standard pole socket on the bottom for speaker stands; a 45-degree side to use as a stage-wedge monitor; or four #8-32 suspension points on the bottom for permanent installations.

The ZXAI-90 gives you a 90-degree horizontal by 50-degree vertical coverage pattern and a rotatable horn. The speaker is complemented by an all-black aluminum grill and the iconic "E-V" logo. Electro-Voice offers a variety of optional accessories to go with the ZXAI-90, including slip covers for protection during transportation, a mounting-plate kit and a truss-clamp adapter.

The ZXAI-Sub is also a size-defying, high-performance machine. With just an 18- by-18-inch footprint, this powerful 12-inch subwoofer and 700-watt Class D (lightweight) amplifier won't leave you disappointed. The lows are incredible and something you would expect from a bigger sub.

Unlike the mains, this cabinet is made from plywood and is internally braced and texture

painted with a black aluminum grill on the front. On the back panel, it offers a master volume control, two Neutrik XLR inputs, two XLR outputs for multi-speaker connections, a bass-boost switch, and a switch for normal or polarity reverse, along with your power. It also has clever foot-pockets on top for stacking multiple ZXAI-Subs.

Electro-Voice is giving DJs all its quality components from its touring systems and has packaged them into its portable systems, giving you the reliability and quality you would expect from the Burnsville, Minn.-based company. Also, for mobile entertainers wanting real bang for the buck, the units are competitively priced—the ZXAI-90 at \$499 MAP and ZXAI-Sub at \$599 MAP.

On a personal note, I should mention that it's been my experience that Electro-Voice gives you about 30-percent worth of headroom in its amps and speakers, so you really don't have to worry when you are pushing them hard. Electro-Voice has definitely raised the bar for compact, portable, active speakers. Excellent job E-V!

If you have any questions for Sounding Off, please send them to djtimes@testa.com.