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Meyer Sound Slim System Package

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Meyer Sound Slim System.

Meyer Sound has always made a priority of research and development, starting with patents on a method for reducing horn distortion and the now-ubiquitous trapezoidal loudspeaker cabinet in 1979 and 1980, respectively, and progressing through an impressive array of patents and awards in the subsequent years. In addition, Meyer has always been a strong proponent of test and measurement to align and verify loudspeaker system performance.

Best-known for its live sound products, Meyer was founded to develop and market a studio monitor system. It has always had some kind of studio monitor in its product lineup; frequently, the results of the research and development into these products have been incorporated into its reinforcement loudspeaker systems.

While Meyer has engineered some extremely large loudspeakers, it is noted for the ability to get efficient production, high power, and fidelity from relatively small enclosure sizes. Aside from performance requirements, one design criterion for the original UPA loudspeaker was that it had to be within the weight and size limits to allow for shipment via UPS.

Slim and trim

Meanwhile, portable PAs, otherwise known as “speakers on sticks,” have gained in popularity and the market segment is seeing more variety, along with higher-end versions. Utilizing existing products, with the addition of a few readily available accessories, Meyer has introduced a compact, high-end portable PA system with components that were originally designed for fixed installations in high-

profile environments. Aesthetics and high quality were key criterions. However, after seeing and listening to it, some Meyer customers felt that the system had a place in the portable PA market as well.

The new Slim System comprises two UP-4slim loudspeakers and two MM-10ACX subwoofers; both models are already in Meyer’s product catalog, although here the subs are turned on their sides, with aluminum baseplates attached to provide a secure footing. A 35mm base pole mount adaptor is affixed to the top of each sub; also, the bottom of each UP-4slim gets cup pole mount adaptors. Add a couple of adjustable (32" – 55") poles, and cables to distribute power and signal, and voila! You’ve got a Slim System package.

The UP-4slim ultra compact loudspeaker is just shy of 16" tall, 4.29" wide, and 5.69" deep. It weighs 14lb. The cabinet is constructed of aluminum with a textured black finish. A powder-coated, stamped steel grille provides protection for the drivers (two 4" cone woofers and one 1" metal dome tweeter, mounted to the constant directivity horn). Both woofers work in tandem at low frequencies; however, the response of one 4" driver is rolled off at higher frequencies. This assists the constant directivity characteristics at crossover. The frequency response of the UP-4slim is 70Hz – 18kHz (+/- 4dB). Coverage is 100° in both axes.

The UP-4slim incorporates a three-channel amplifier that provides 500W total output power. On the back panel are a five-pin Phoenix connector, system status LED, and amplifier heat sink.



UP-4Slim front. Note perforated metal grille and aluminum enclosure.



UP-4Slim and pole mount.

The lowdown on the lows

The MM-10ACX incorporates a 10" driver mounted in a bass reflex cabinet and has a frequency response of 35Hz – 208Hz +/- 4dB. The maximum peak SPL is 123dB. A single-channel Class D amplifier provides 220W output power.

The cabinet is constructed of multiply hardwood and measures 19" wide x 11" high x 12" deep. It weighs in at 30.8lb. A hex-stamped steel grille, backed with a mesh screen, protects

the driver. The I/O panel includes three XLR audio inputs, two satellite inputs (1 and 2), and one subwoofer input. Above the subwoofer input is a gain knob that provides up to +10dB of gain or cut to infinity (effectively no signal passes). Also featured are a limit LED indicator (green for system on, yellow for limiting, and red for clipping) and input polarity switch. A selector switch is employed to choose the subwoofer or satellite inputs. Selecting "satellite" also provides summing of

the two inputs (if you choose). Above the two satellite inputs are two satellite outputs. In the case of my review sample unit, Phoenix connectors were used to provide 48V DC power and balanced audio to the UP-4slims. At the bottom of the I/O panel is the Neutrik PowerCon AC input, which will accept 100 to 240V AC, 50Hz – 60Hz. Also provided is a looping AC output—again, a PowerCon connector. While the input/output of the MM-10ACX allows for different configurations, including single channel, dual channel, and dual channel plus sub (2.1), for this particular application the single-channel system set up is probably the best choice.

Signed, sealed, delivered

It has been quite a while since Meyer offered a packaged system with all the necessary cables and connectors. In the case of the Slim System package, everything is packed in one shipping carton, making it basically plug-and-play. Essentially, it takes some of the company's stock items, combines them with a few accessories, and, voila, you've got a speaker-on-a-stick system. The cut-out handles on the subs are obscured by the base plates and pole-mount base, but it is relative-



UP-4Slim Phoenix input connection and heat sink.



UP-4Slim Phoenix input connector.



MM-10ACX subwoofer with pole mount and aluminum base plate.



MM-10ACX subwoofer and system I/O.



MM-10ACX subwoofer in the studio for a listening session.

ly lightweight and easy to move around. The attached aluminum base plates provide a secure and wider footprint, and four rubber feet help prevent marring of any surfaces, in addition to providing some isolation.

The pre-made composite multica-bles with five-pin Phoenix connectors on each end are presumably Belden 1502, called out in the datasheet and operating instructions. The Phoenix connector is wired in accordance with the diagram on the I/O panels on both the MM-10ACX and UP-4slim. There are positive, negative, and shield for carrying balanced audio and positive and negative for the 48V DC power for the UP-4slim. The cable comprises one pair of 22 AWG stranded with foam insulation and foil shield, combined with two conductor 18 AWG.

I had encountered the system previously at a trade show and was impressed with what I heard in that environment, so I was anxious to get it set up and run through my speaker-evaluation process in a more controlled situation. The shipping carton is sizable and weighs around 70lb, but everything you need for a single UP-4slim package is contained, so setup is a breeze. I had it up and running in

no time.

In the past, PA systems were typically large and heavy and the emphasis was on handling a lot of power and getting really loud. A clear distinction existed between speakers made for PA/sound reinforcement and those made for high-fidelity sound reproduction, like recording studio monitors. The UP-4slim system is equally at home reinforcing a small music stage or servicing a meeting breakout session as it is playing back high-fidelity content for critical listening.

A case in point

At my job, a series of listening sessions was scheduled, in which three first-rate recording engineers would play back tracks for an audience of about 25. The content was contemporary music, with tracks by Cardi B, BTS (a South Korean boy band that's all the rage), and others. The host requested that I provide a UP-4slim system for playback for the sessions. The tracks were played back from ProTools through a Universal Audio interface. All the responses from the recording engineers were favorable. Afterwards, I spoke with an engineer who said he could mix tracks utilizing

the UP-4slim. That's saying a lot for a speaker-on-a-stick system.

As noted, the Slim System components were originally intended for permanent installations, so it has a few things not seen in the portable PA market. While the Phoenix connector provides good metal-to-metal contact, it's not typically used outside of permanent installs. It would be important to make sure the cables remain with the system, or to have spares handy. If you lose one, finding a replacement might be problematic. The supplied combo cable also seemed designed for the installation market—it was a bit stiff and plenum-rated—and I don't know how well it would hold up to repeated coiling in a system that is set up and struck for various gigs.

Individually, the primary components—the UP-4slim and MM-10ACX—are already great-sounding loudspeakers. In combination, and utilizing the accessories included in the package, you have a compact, high-fidelity, portable PA that can be used in a variety of situations that demand small size and high performance.

List price for the Slim System package is \$12,680. [🔗](#)