

Speakers with a New Accent: The Vantec Series from Spain's D.A.S. Audio

EXCELLENT SOUND AND USEFUL FEATURES FROM IBERIAN AUDIO INNOVATOR

By Ryan Burger

I've used speakers made in Wisconsin, Mississippi and California, as well as China and other parts of the Far East, but I have to admit, I would never have thought that Spain could produce such a fantastic audio product. Spain is a beautiful country, with a rich history--just not the first country that comes to mind when thinking of high-quality audio products for DJs. (But of course, Ibiza is part of Spain, so maybe I'm just a little late to the party...)

D.A.S. Audio (D.A.S. being an abbreviation for "Dynamic and Sound") has been producing speakers, amplifiers and more for over 40 years, and starting bringing product into the USA more than 20 years ago. For the last 10 years or so, when I have walked



by their booths at NAMM and other trade shows, I have certainly been impressed by their big line arrays flying from the ceilings, but I have to admit to thinking that D.A.S. products were too high-end for most DJs. A few years ago my business partner Jake Feldman wrote a great article on the D.A.S. Event Series line array system (Nov 2014, MB #159) after using it for a bunch of summer sound reinforcement gigs. As line arrays

go, it was well priced, but still beyond the price range and application needs of the majority of DJs. Now, however, D.A.S. has hit a sweet spot with the new Vantec Series, providing some DJ-centric portable speakers that maintain the company's higher-end reputation. Developed with the help and advice of their in-house US DJ expert, Darrin "B-Side" Young (look for more from Darrin in an upcoming issue), the series is comprised of three powered models (12", 15" and dual-15") with three passive counterparts, plus a passive 18" subwoofer. We received two Vantec 15A powered speakers for review.

Power is supplied to the unit through lockable Neutrik



powerCON plugs. (I made the mistake of assuming they used more common IEC power cords, and had to make an extra trip back to the office. Lesson learned: Keep the powerCONs with the Vantecs at all times.) Just over 50 pounds a piece, the speakers are tightly constructed of sturdy birch plywood and are finished very nicely with durable, textured, ISO-flex coating. And these are very cool-looking speakers with an elegantly beveled grille design that features a mirrored pair of what I would call "sideways Vs" (for "Vantec?")

A quick summary: These Vantec 15A loudspeakers were everything we needed for an average school dance or wedding. Pushing out 1500 watts of power through a Class D amplifier, each speaker cranked very nicely. We tested the speakers at several different weddings and a number of school dances, and their performance was consistently superb. They pumped out more than enough smooth sound for our mid to large events, without breaking a sweat, so to speak.

Beyond the solid construction, another reason for the easily-attained excellent sound was the detailed DSP system with LCD screen, allowing one to pick from the pre-configured settings and also tweak them for the specific application. I went with their "Dance Setting" preset and added another 2db onto the highs.

Additionally, the Vantec 15A is equipped with a cool feature that is sure to prove handy for DJs: a built-in Bluetooth wireless system allowing you to broadcast into the speaker or go speaker to speaker to save cabling. The range is rated at only about 30 to 40 feet, but can come in handy if there just isn't a good way to run cabling across the dance floor, or if you need to quickly access music on a mobile device or computer.

We found that the Vantec 15A rates nicely next to other higher-end DJ speakers in the \$800-\$1000 range. If you are looking for great sound and features, but only budgeting \$500 for a powered speaker, you should consider expanding your budget and checking out the Vantec Series from D.A.S. Audio.

www.dasaudio.com/en/cp/vantec-en-systems/