

Electro-Voice ZXA1-90 Two-Way Loudspeaker

The ZXA1-90 may be small, cute, and light, but it's no lightweight in power, performance, and flexibility.

The E-V ZXA1-90 is a small (17.88 x 11.12 x 10.38 inches), amplified, two-way loudspeaker built for portable sound reinforcement applications, which utilizes the EV8L 8-inch woofer and the DH2005 1-inch exit compression driver, the latter of which is a titanium diaphragm tweeter coupled with a rotatable 90 x 50 degree waveguide.

The ZXA1-90 is powered by a 800W 2-channel amplifier; crossover frequency is at 1.8 kHz. A user-selectable 100 Hz high-pass filter allows for use with a subwoofer (or ideal when using at a monitor wedge broadcasting primarily midrange instruments, vocals, etc.).

The ZXA1-90 offers an XLR microphone input with independent gain control and line-level input via an XLR/TRS combo jack. A line-level XLR output (microphone and line level summed together) is also included, which is ideal when daisy-chaining more ZXA1-90s, other speakers, or a subwoofer together. A second rotary pot (in addition to the mic gain control) allows independent adjustment of master volume. Two LEDs indicate power on and transducer protection limiter on statuses, respectively.

The ZXA1-90's injection-molded cabinet is made of high-impact polystyrene, which makes the package light in comparison to similar wood-enclosed products (each ZXA1-90 weighs 19 lbs.). A well-positioned handle resides at the top of the rear panel, making two ZXA1-90s easy to carry.

In Use

At first glance, primarily because of their small size and weight, it's easy

to underestimate the performance potential of the ZXA1-90; upon carrying a pair into a live club gig (approximately a 250-person-capacity venue with a dual 18-inch powered sub anchored house PA), where they would serve as stage monitors/wedges, the musicians smiled — and actually chuckled — at the sight of their diminutive stature.

But upon powering them up and checking vocal and guitar monitor levels through the ZXA1-90 pair provided for this review, the chuckling ceased. The smiles remained, though, as we all were surprised at their clean, loud, low/no-noise performance and surprising mid-/low-end fullness, especially evident in chunky rhythm guitar. I found the ZXA1-90 pair to be great stage monitors for club dates. No question, the ZXA1-90's 800W amp really delivers.

Later at another gig — a coffee-shop-style date featuring electric piano and vocal via the ZXA1-90 pair — I didn't even use a mixer; we simply put the vocal mic into the first ZXA1-90's mic input, and line-in from the keyboard, then daisy-chained the second ZXA1-90 via XLR (we also used a third-party powered speaker for a stage monitor). This environment proved to



be another ideal setting for these speakers. With the same musicians, but at a small outside event, we used a stick-style PA as a main (Fishman SoloAmp), with the two ZXA1-90s serving again as wedges. Again, the E-Vs served very well as monitor speakers, allowing two different musician-tweaked levels per cabinet and comfort for all — audience and performers.

For a final gig, I used the ZXA1-90 pair as mains, paired with a powered subwoofer (Cerwin-Vega CVA-118). With their high-pass filter utilized, the E-Vs held their own, delivering two hours of high-volume rock (consistently over 100 dBa SPL at FOH position) without a hitch.

Two other qualities of this ZXA1-90
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