

SOUNDCHECK *the gear in review*

MAST APPEAL

Bose L1 Model II sound system

BY CHRIS GILL

A SOUND SYSTEM is one of the best investments you can make when your band is starting out. It allows you to perform even at venues that don't have their own sound system, so you'll play out more often and recoup your expenses faster, all while building your expertise and audience.

Unfortunately, some portable sound systems are so big and bulky that you'll also need to invest in a van just to move your band's gear around from the rehearsal space to gigs. That can stretch a band's budget beyond what's practical.

The engineers at **Bose**, home of the Wave music system and Lifestyle home theater system, know a thing or two about getting big sound from a compact setup. Bose's L1 Model II sound system uses an ingenious cylindrical speaker column and compact components that users can set up in a matter of minutes.

The entire package weighs considerably less than 100 pounds, and it breaks down into several small parts that you can stow in the back seat, trunk or rear hatch of a compact car.

FEATURES

THE HEART OF THE L1 Model II sound system is its two-piece Cylindrical Radiator speaker column, which looks like Darth Vader's Festivus pole and stands just over seven feet tall with the top and bottom connected. The column houses 24 small speaker drivers that deliver audio at consistent volume and tone over a 180-degree horizontal dispersion pattern in front of the column, eliminating the need for monitors. Individual power amplifiers for the column's upper and lower sections are built into the power stand. Bose does not reveal the amplifiers' power output, but the system's performance is comparable to portable systems with 500 to 1,000 watts of output.

The basic L1 Model II system also includes one B1 Bass Module, which features two high-output five 1/4-inch drivers driven by a separate amplifier also housed in the speaker stand. The B1 connects to the power stand with a single cable. One B1 is sufficient for most solo performer applications (such

as a singer with an acoustic-electric guitar), but adding a second B1 is highly recommended for bass-intensive sounds sources like a bass guitar, kick drum or DJ setup. Using a second B1 module is simply a matter of daisy chaining one module to the other. The optional A1 PackLite power amplifier allows you to use up to two additional B1 Bass Modules (for a total of four) if desired.

The L1 Model II's power stand includes a single line-level 1/4-inch input for connecting a mic or instrument, and a trim control. If you want to plug in more instruments or mics and need adjustable EQ, Bose offers the T1 ToneMatch audio engine, which plugs into the power stand via a single cable

and mounts within easy reach to the speaker column by means of an optional adjustable mic stand bracket. The T1 has three combo 1/4-inch/XLR inputs and a line input, allowing you to connect up to four input sources to the L1 Model

II. There's no need for external processors, thanks to adjustable EQ, reverb, delay, modulation and dynamics effect processors, and ToneMatch EQ presets for vocal mics, electric and acoustic

guitar, keyboards, bass, percussion, wind and horns and DJ applications.

PERFORMANCE

THE L1 MODEL II is great for solo performers and for players who want their own sound system, but a pair of singer/acoustic guitarists or a small band that plays at moderate volume should consider adding the T1 ToneMatch audio engine. The output is loud enough to fill small to medium-sized venues (for example, one that seats crowds up to 500). While the system may not be able to compete with a metal band's stacks of amps and drum kit, it's loud enough for a band that plays blues, jazz or acoustic rock. The sound quality is exceptionally clean, clear and well balanced, and the B1 Bass Module provides deep, full, focused bass that can rattle windows.

Because of the L1's cylindrical radia-



BOSE L1 MODEL II
SOUND SYSTEM

LIST PRICES: \$2,499.00; with T1 ToneMatch, \$2,998.00

MANUFACTURER:

Bose, bose.com

SPEAKERS: 24 small drivers (Cylindrical Radiator), two 5 1/4-inch woofers (B1 Bass Module)

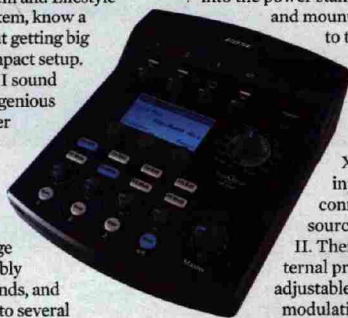
AMPLIFIERS: Three (Cylindrical Radiator top, bottom and B1 Bass Module)

CONNECTIONS/

CONTROLS: 1/4-inch analog input, 1/4-inch bass line output, Bass Module output (special four-wire connector), ToneMatch port, trim control, power switch

T1 TONEMATCH: (optional) Three XLR/1/4-inch combo analog inputs, three 1/4-inch preamp outputs, 1/4-inch line input, 1/4-inch aux output, 1/4-inch master output, USB port, ToneMatch port, three-band adjustable EQ, single-band parametric EQ, five reverbs, three delays, 10 modulation effects, seven dynamics processors, chromatic tuner, +48V phantom power

The L1 Model II's Cylindrical Radiator may look like a Festivus pole, but its 24 drivers are cause for celebration.



Optional T1 ToneMatch



The B1 Bass Module keeps bass tight, deep and full.



tor design, the system operates only in mono. For a stereo setup you'll need to use a second L1 system, which can significantly add to the cost. It's a worthy investment however if you want stellar sound quality, impressive volume and a flexible system that doesn't require feats of strength just to set it up.

THE BOTTOM LINE

NO ONE KNOWS compact sound like Bose. If you hate hauling around big, unwieldy speaker cabinets and spending hours connecting components, the L1 Model II is the miracle you've been waiting for. Finally, a sound system for the rest of us. 🌟

PRO	CON
COMPACT AND LIGHT-WEIGHT; QUICK SET UP; EXCELLENT SOUND AND VOLUME OUTPUT	EXPENSIVE; MONO OPERATION ONLY; LIMITED INPUT CAPACITY