

EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

AUDIO

Another artefact of this 200mm bass/midrange unit manifested itself as an edgy hardness imparted to upper strings and some voices. I happened to pop on the EMI CD of Britten's *War Requiem* (CDS7 47034-8, 12/84) and found the voice of Elisabeth Söderström and the boys of my local choir (Christ Church Cathedral Oxford) given a presentation which bordered on the unpleasant. Ah well, you can't win 'em all.

The DL8 (£179.90) is in a different category altogether and is probably destined to become the poor man's SL6, which would be no disgrace.

Once again almost everything is scaled up but there are also two major changes; this larger cabinet is a sealed box, and the tweeter uses a larger one-piece pressed aluminium dome which closely models the deposited copper one developed for, and made famous by, the SL6 and SL600 (reviewed in the March 1982 and September 1984 issues). There are a number of auditory similarities too and, although the accuracy of the two senior models cannot be expected at this price, the same high degree of 'listenability' rules. The lower end is perhaps a trifle over-

warm and cloying, whereas the mid-range strikes one as a mite recessed. Though there seems a lack of treble, this is not really so: it is just the smoothness. The crossover is somewhat unusual, with capacitor coupling for the bass unit and a resonant circuit to the tweeter. Sensitivity and power handling remain high and this loudspeaker will go much louder than the SL6 it resembles. For the price, there is not the slightest doubt that it offers excellent value for money. Personally I would pay more for a better finish, particularly as one is probably going to have to fork out

for a decent pair of stands anyway, for these DL8s are definitely not at home on the bookshelf.

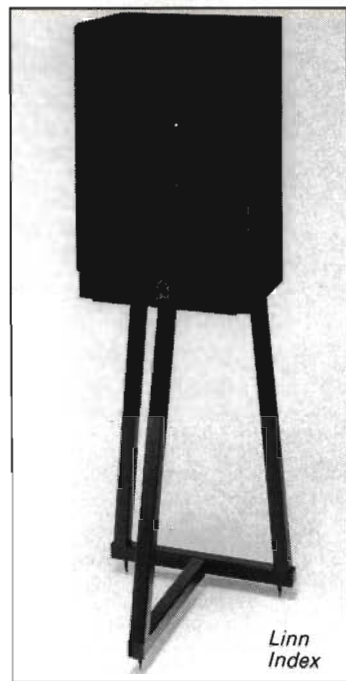
To sum up

Three pairs of loudspeakers, varied in price, in performance and in desirability; as they say—you pay your money and you take your choice. Better in this case to take your choice first, you might choose the DL4 and save some money, but then again you might well be tempted to invest in the DL8.

Geoffrey Horn.

NEW PRODUCTS

AUDIO



Linn Index

Linn speaker

Linn Products Ltd., 235 Drake-mire Drive, Glasgow G45 9SZ have launched a new loudspeaker called the Index (£139.75 per pair). It is a two-way infinite baffle design and uses a B200 bass/midrange unit and a soft-dome treble unit. The cabinet is made from 18mm high-density chip-board and measures 490 x 352 x 496mm. The units are mounted with silicone mastic sealant and the loudspeakers are designed to be used close to a wall. Matching stands have been designed and cost £34.50 per pair.

Harman separates

Two pairs of Harman Kardon amplifiers and tuners have been announced by Harman (Audio) UK Ltd., Mill Street, Slough, Berks SL2 5DD. The PM645 (£169) and PM655 (£215) integrated amplifiers are rated at 40 and 100 watts-per-channel respectively into 8 ohms and feature HK's high instantaneous output current circuitry. The matching tuners

are the TU910 (£121) and TU915 (£245) which both feature phasing error correction and visual indication of signal strength and accurate tuning.

Harman (Audio) UK have also added two new cassette tapes to their range of "That's" formulations. The FX cassette is for normal IEC/I bias and EQ, whilst EM-X is for the chrome IEC/II position.

The latest Teac cassette deck being imported by Harman is the R999X (£602) which now leads their auto-reverse range and has a dual micro-bearing with two motors to position the head block against the tape. A four-bit microprocessor controls all functions including 15-programme search and 10-seconds intro-check.

All prices are approximate and do not include VAT.



Harman Kardon PM645

Oak turntable

Moth Marketing, 47 Armstrong Close, Wilstead, Bedford have modified their Oak turntable since its launch in January 1983. It is now in a black, grey and red styling with a multi-layer Medite fibreboard plinth supporting the main bearing,

tonearm and synchronous motor. The Medite platter is belt-driven and the spindle bearing runs in an oil bath. The Oak turntable is available without arm but pre-cut for any Linn, Mission, Helius and other tonearms at £90. A version with a new Oak tonearm is due in August at £130 complete.



Oak turntable



Quad rack

Quad rack

Quad Electroacoustics Ltd., Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7DB have introduced a compact rack which neatly conceals all the interconnecting cables and stacks the Quad 44 control unit, FM4 tuner and 405-2 power amplifier in a minimum of space. The rack costs £48.99 and a second version similarly accommodates the Quad 34 control unit, FM4 and 405-2.

New Akai models

New systems and separates in several product ranges have been announced by Akai (UK) Ltd., 12 Silver Jubilee Way, Haslemere Heathrow Estate, Hounslow, Middx. TW4 6NF. They include new midi systems with direct signal connections to avoid the usual muddle of wires and cables, synchro recording and remote control. Two of these systems incorporate a CD player as standard. The System 99CD (£1,099.90) has no record-player deck and comprises a 50 watts-per-channel amplifier with microphone 'mixing, volume and tone memory, AM/FM tuner/timer with 10 presets and 7-day 4-station programming, double cassette deck and the new CD-M88 Compact Disc player having fully automatic operation. The System 990 (£1,399) adds to these units a front-loading automatic turntable and a 9-band graphic equalizer having six memorized settings. The suggested matching loudspeaker for both these systems is the three-way SW-M88.