

FIRST TEST
Speaker system

DLS Flatbox XL + DLS Flatsub 8

27 300 P*

POSITIVES

- ★ Remarkable musical capabilities
- ★ Ease of adjustment

MINUSES

- ? Rather narrow range
- ? Low working volume

FINISH

- * White matt lacquer, black piano lacquer

The Swedish company DLS is not lacking when it comes to specialist products. When I first came across this brand of speaker, those encounters left me with only the sweetest of memories.

TEXT *Alexander Knvazev*



This elegant speaker system comes with a choice of black or white grille.

An unusual system arrived in our office today for testing. Nowadays, "2 + 1" is not the most common format to be found among modern speaker systems. But this was not the biggest surprise even. The system was peculiarly confined underneath wall mountings. Around 40 to 50 years ago this was the trend, but today it is a genuine piece of exotica. So, we have a pair of flat boxes, built for use as satellite speakers, and a similarly flat sub-woofer. A pair of 75-mm mid-bass loudspeakers is mounted in the speaker columns, with a 28-mm soft-dome tweeter between them. A slotted phase inverter is fitted on the short side wall. The mounting bracket and a few wall-mounting points are arranged on the rear wall. The sub on the front panel has an 8-inch loudspeaker and basic adjustment controls.

The connection terminals for the sub turned out to be on the opposite side. Setting up the triphonic (three-speaker) system, was completely straightforward. The system sounded extremely organic and natural. The range, it has to be said, was quite narrow, but the tonality was simply exemplary. The sound was full and airy, and the volume could be felt. The resonance came over extremely accurately and vividly. It must also be said that this system is not very loud. Despite my warm feelings towards this brand, I did not expect to hear such organic sound and musical freedom from such a compact and inexpensive speaker system! Without hesitation, I fully recommend this package to all music lovers.



All adjustment controls for the sub are found on the face panel. There is smooth control of volume, filter pass band and phase. An LED is also included in the set. On the lower panel, apart from a large grille, there are terminals for connecting to the mains supply and for signal leads. It allows both high and low amplitude inputs.

The sub is supremely comfortable whether it is mounted on the wall, or simply on the floor. In addition, rubber feet and a special bracket are provided for mounting the unit. The Scandinavian design deserves to be described in single words. Laconic, logical and unpretentious.

VITAL STATISTICS

DLS FLATBOX XL

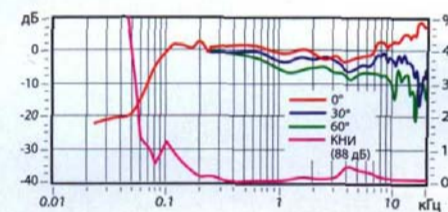
- Acoustic design *bass reflex*
- Frequency response, Hz **65** \square **25 000**
- Recommended amplifier power, Watts **30** \square **150**
- Dimensions (H?W?D). mm **220x92x630**
- Number of bands **2**
- Mid bass driver, mm **2x75**
- Tweeter, mm **30**
- Weight, Kg **5.9**
- Sensitivity dB/Watt/m **89**
- Impedance, Ohm **4**

DLS FLATSUB 8

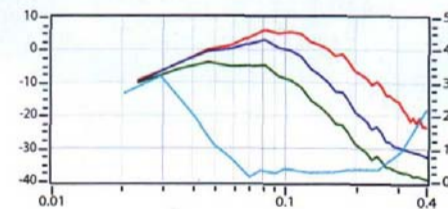
- Acoustic design *closed*
- Power of integrated amplifier, Watt **150**
- Loudspeaker diameter, mm **200**
- Dimensions (H?W?D) mm **425x155x335**
- Weight, Kg **11.2**
- Frequency response, Hz **40** \square **150**

DLS FLATSUB 8

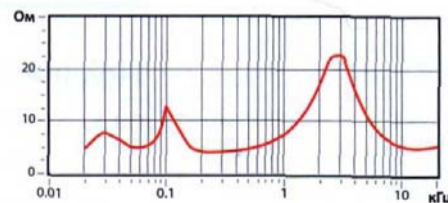
- Mean distortion (40 \square 160 Hz, 88 dB), % **0.63**
- Lower limit (at level -10 dB), Hz **33**
- High-amplitude inputs *yes*
- Line inputs (L/R) *yes*



AFC of satellite



Distortion of satellite



Impedance curve of satellite

STEREO&VIDEO DATA

Measured at the Stereo&Video laboratory. January, 2012.

DLS FLATBOX XL

- Mean distortion (100Hz \square 20 kHz, 88 dB), % **0.23**
- Mean distortion (40 Hz \square 100 Hz, 88 dB), % **3.25**
- Non-linearity in AFC (100 Hz \square 20 kHz), \pm dB **3.49**
- Mean non-linearity in AFC (angle of 30 degrees.), \pm dB **3.52**
- Lower limit (at level -10 dB), Hz **66**
- Sensitivity dB/Watt/m **86**
- Minimum impedance, Ohm **4.2**
- Maximum impedance, Ohm **22,82**

COMMENTS

The AFC of the satellite when inclined away from the axis by 15 degrees is adequately linear. This is just right and must be taken into account when positioning the speakers in an actual room. The sub adds to the general sound scheme quite well. The distortion of the satellites at higher volumes is rather high, however. The impedance does not supply loads for every type of amplifier.