

audition

equipment review

Accusound Delta Series Home Theatre Speaker System

There's been a lot happening at Accusound of late. A change of name to Accusound Australia Pty Ltd to better reflect the company's product identity, and a flurry of new products too. One of which is the new Delta Series - a range of loudspeakers that have been designed and developed in Australia and as Accusound puts it, "we have been working to create a new type of sound for music and movies that you can hear and feel. We call this 'Live Sound'.

We had our first taste of one of the new Accusound designs, the substantial

sounding SW-250 active subwoofer back in AVL-123, a type of product for which Accusound has gained a healthy reputation for. The other loudspeakers in the AV equation are reviewed here as a home theatre system. Comprising a pair of DL-895 main floorstanders (\$1,699 per pair), DLC-145 centre speaker (\$419) and a pair of DLR-525 bookshelves (\$449 per pair) for rear surrounds, these are just some of the new Delta Series designs.

One thing's for sure - you always get a lot of loudspeaker for your money with Accusound, and this is none truer than with these new designs. The DL-895s are the largest of two floorstanding models, and there are two centre channels, two bookshelf models, a pair of rear surrounds and the aforementioned SW-250 subwoofer. The choice allows budget as well as room size matching and in keeping with any decent AV speaker system's basic design principle, the new Deltas have been developed to provide that all important sonic balance. If a collection of loudspeakers can not sound 'as one' when used with multichannel sources and amplification, then the fundamental experience of listening to surround sound is lost. Forget about cohesion, an ambient soundstage and integration across the board - if the speakers don't gel in the first place, none of this is going to happen.

Admittedly, it's a rare occurrence these days for a loudspeaker manufacturer to produce a

Reprinted with permission from Audio & Video Lifestyle magazine, issue AVL-127

Home theatre speakers from Accusound without the Hollywood-sized budget

Vital Statistics

Dimensions:

1045 x 274 x 314mm (DL-895)

Weight:

22.5kg (DL-895, each)

Price:

\$2,567 (complete)

Distributor:

Accusound Australia
Unit 3, 17-19 Marshall Road
Kirrawee, NSW 2232

Telephone:

(02) 9545 3905

Facsimile:

(02) 9545 3902

Website:

www.accusound.com.au

By Nic Tatham

multichannel speaker system that misses this mark completely, but believe me it does happen. Rear surrounds can sound too bright and directional; a subwoofer's bass can be bloated to the point of swamping everything else and if a centre channel speaker shrieks at you, after just a few minutes into a movie, you're going to know about it.

And AV speaker designers and manufacturers have to address both the audio and video tasks of delivering two or multichannel music, as well as the dynamic demands of the latest generations of Dolby Digital and DTS movie soundtracks. The speakers also have to be relatively easy to drive and not present the home theatre receiver or amplifier with too difficult a load. Add in the fact that some people simply do not like having a great collection of loudspeakers in the living room and you can appreciate it's not an easy job getting all of this right.

Having had plenty of practice, Accusound continues to offer a wide variety of loudspeakers, from mini satellite/sub systems that don't take up too much room, to large and imposing cabinets that are meant to be seen. The new Deltas definitely fall into the latter category. They come in either Rosewood or Black Oak finishes and



for a vinyl wrap, the cabinet finish on all models look agreeably sumptuous. Even the leather-look tops add a touch of panache to the finish. What's more, construction quality is particularly solid, something that was plainly evident with the SW-250 subwoofer and it continues with the rest of the Delta range.

The heavily-built DL-895 floorstanders pack a fair few drivers and the cabinet has been constructed with a separate chamber to isolate the 165mm midrange driver in the top of the speaker. The bass is supplied by two 200mm woofers (pictured overleaf) and Accusound has developed a new 25mm silk dome tweeter that is used throughout the Delta Series. Big gold-plated biwireable 4mm sockets will take thick speaker cables and the towers sit on top of spike-equipped plinths.

The DLC-145 is the smaller of the two Delta centre channels, but still quite a sizeable unit. It comprises two 145mm bass/midrange drivers and a single 25mm silk dome tweeter, all of which are magnetically-shielded. Finally, the DLR-525 surrounds are a 2-way design, again using the same 145mm woofer

and 25mm tweeter. These can be wall-mounted with the use of a rear hanging clip.

All of the Delta models are bass reflex cabinets and all fire forwards. This makes placement a bit easier and the speakers are more forgiving if you have to place them right up against the back wall. The big DL-895s are particularly room boundary friendly and even as close up as the speaker cables allow, their substantial bass doesn't break down and sound bloated or any less tuneful. These floorstanders are certainly capable of delivering formidable low-end punch, but they do it with a good degree of control and composure. The drivers prove to be fast and agile sounding units and in return they deliver the low and lower midrange content with plenty of speed and attack. With rock and pop music they punch out plenty of deep, solid bass, which is both agile and tuneful and add to the overall involvement of listening to 2-channel music.

Some floorstanders of this physical stature can sound overbearing, but it isn't in these Accusound's nature to

Technotalk

Product Type:

AV loudspeaker system

Driver Complement:

DL-895: 2 x 200mm woofers

165mm midrange

25mm tweeter

DLC-145: 2 x 145mm woofers

25mm tweeter

DLR-525: 145mm woofer

25mm tweeter

Impedance:

6 ohms (all models)

Sensitivity:

89dB (all models)

Frequency Response:

DL-895: 35Hz-21kHz

DLC-145: 45Hz-21kHz

DLR-525: 45Hz-21kHz

Power Handling:

DL-895: 50-180 watts RMS

Cabinet Finishes:

Rosewood, Black Oak

Technotalk specifications and recommended retail prices are supplied by the manufacturer

“Accusound’s goal to produce a speaker package that sounds ‘as one’ has been achieved with the Deltas putting in a nicely cohesive, balanced and enveloping performance. Driven by capable AV amplification they integrate superbly, placing each element of a Dolby Digital or DTS soundtrack with impressive consistency and smooth uniformity.”

sound too imposing, but rather layer the sound with subtlety and control.

With a well-recorded CD like Massive Attack’s *100th Window*, the big-sounding tunes are delivered with bags of dynamic presence and energy. Fat basslines give decent depth and really tight, pacy drive. On the track *Everywhen* each bass note is well defined, each leading edge snapped out rather than muddled through, giving mesmeric dance beats genuine rhythm and pace.

Firing up all loudspeakers with movie material, the effects is equally dramatic. Accusound’s goal to produce a speaker package that sounds ‘as one’ has been achieved with the Deltas putting in a nicely cohesive, balanced and enveloping performance. Driven by capable AV amplification they integrate superbly, placing each element of a Dolby Digital or DTS soundtrack with impressive consistency and smooth uniformity. Front-to-back or side-to-side effect pans slip seamless across the broad soundstage that these five loudspeakers create. Heavy footfalls in *Jurassic Park III* require the presence of the SW-250 subwoofer, something that at \$1,299 would be a logical addition.

One recent DVD release worth getting excited about, (like the film or not), is the Director’s Cut of *Pearl Harbor*. Three discs, hours of extras, but the best bit is undoubtedly the 30 or so minutes attack sequence, halfway through the film. Sticking with Dolby Digital 5.1 sound, the onslaught is pure home theatre mayhem and all AV speakers are given some truly serious punishment. Whacking my Onkyo AV receiver up to reference level, the Accusounds handle the sonic deluge easily. You are pinned back in the seat as the wealth of surround sound effects pass over, around, and every which way, assaulting the senses with effects placement faster than you can blink. Even with this sort of relentless and loud sonic action, the Accusounds comfortably keep up with the pace. And these Accusounds also work a treat with the subtle stuff: the creepiness of the Jack the Ripper tale in *From Hell* proves to be just as spellbinding as the volume-driven stuff. Here the rears are able to instill plenty of atmosphere and presence, not to the same degree as a pair of bi or dipoles, but they do have the desired effect. Dialogue is also very legible, although I did have to up the centre level by a couple of decibels compared to listening on my usual KEF Q9c centre.



Accusound developed an aluminium driver frame for its Delta Series woofers, which is both lighter and more rigid than pressed steel, which is more commonly used.

So if your budget stretches to around \$2,500 for a five-piece AV loudspeaker system, plus \$1,300 for an active sub, and you don’t mind a speaker system that makes its presence felt both aesthetically and sonically, try these. [AVL](#)

Ancillary Equipment: ME 550II power amplifier, Onkyo TX-SR700 AV receiver, Onkyo DX-SP800 universal DVD player, Toshiba 38D9UXA LCD rear projection TV, QED Silver Anniversary Biwire loudspeaker cable, Audioquest Topaz interconnects

O p i n i o n

The ‘Opinion’ expressed here is that of the reviewer, summarised in the form of a 5-star rating system, and should be considered as an integral part of the full contents of this Audition Equipment Review. As such, each category should be judged on its own merits and not necessarily used as a comparison with other equipment reviews in this, or other editions of Audio & Video Lifestyle magazine.

- ★ Shocker
- ★★ Average
- ★★★ Good
- ★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★★ Perfection

“Some floorstanders of this physical stature can sound overbearing, but it isn’t in these Accusound’s nature to sound too imposing...”

Performance

★★★★

Build Quality

★★★★

Compatibility

★★★★

Value For Money

★★★★