



## **LEGEND AND DEQX TEAM UP FOR A DEMONSTRATION**

Congratulations to Kim Ryrie and Dr Rod Crawford for an exciting presentation in May and we thank them very much for their efforts. Kim gave up his Sunday afternoon to set up and demonstrate his DEQX digital processor. We were privileged to be able to listen to the top of the line Legend Acoustics speaker, called the Kumbar Wirri or Big Red.

It is essentially a powered sub containing two 10" side firing Peerless XL drivers and a 500 watt amplifier with a top box design that consists of a small monitor with a pure ceramic tweeter and Scanspeak 7" midrange driver, all in black piano finish. A very attractive, compact full range system capable of considerable drive and dynamics.

As stated by Edgar in last months newsletter "the active version of the Big Red includes a DEQX digital processor which includes a DAC, preamplifier, room correction, digital cross-over, digital EQ and kitchen sink. Oh and it also contains the required amplification to power the drive units individually. Astonishingly, all this processing power and hardware is cased in a single, attractively finished box...all you need extra is a CD/DVD transport to feed the DEQX box which in turn connects to the speakers. Voila."

The total system price retails for around \$15,000 (speakers and DEQX) and as stated all you need is a transport. This is quite reasonable when you consider what you are getting. You are getting virtually a complete system - speakers with powered subs, Room equalization, three way active crossover with variable crossover slopes, remote controlled preamp, DAC and switching amplifiers for midrange and treble. Club members may also be eligible for a small reduction on this amount if they were interested the complete system and possibly even the DEQX if purchased separately if they did not want to upgrade their speakers - talk to Kim.

If any members were considering the DEQX as a standalone without the speakers and without the digital amplifiers I believe the base unit is around the \$6,000 retail which is not outrageous considering that you get everything except the speakers and amplifiers. It is a high quality system. The model with the inbuilt digital amplifiers I understand is around \$8,000 retail.

One of the advantages of the fully active system which can be time compensated is that you can move your subs to the rear of the room - even in the corners if you want. The crossover slopes of up to 100db per octave mean that you can cross the sub over much higher than usual (say 160 Hz) to get lower midrange/ midbass with great power and oomph because the subs are partly horn loaded in the corners. The subs are then time aligned via the software to the top boxes even when there is a number of metres' separating the main speakers from the subs. This means that the soundstage is still coherent and any anomalies in the bass from corner loading (peaks and dips) can be equalized out using the software. What a tremendous advantage.

As a full range system it is more than competitive with similar priced systems and seems from my discussions with members to compare favourably with their systems and has an excellent DAC and digital power amps thrown in. One member who has had experience with the DEQX system and whose well respected CD player has been demonstrated at Club meetings to good effect noted that the DAC in the DEQX was just as good as his CD/DAC or possibly better. This is very high praise indeed.

### *Specifications*

3-way system 2\*bass, mid, treble: 500W bass amp built-in  
Frequency response 20 - 25,000Hz  
Sensitivity 87 dB/W @ 1m (top module)  
Impedance 7 ohms, nominal (top module)  
Recommended Power 50 - 400 W (top module)  
Size(mm) 1050(h)x300(w)x300(d) at base  
Weight 42 kg each side  
Warranty 10 Years  
Finishes currently piano black; wood veneers in future.

### *LISTENING SESSIONS*

The meeting began on time and first up was the DEQX, Big Red combination, and quite a formidable combination it was. Most members commented that it had a very big, coherent and powerful sound. A variety of music was selected from large orchestral to intimate vocal with all styles being handled with ease. The only negative comment that was voiced was that the ceramic tweeter was a bit "hot" although very detailed and was too prominent in the mix. This was a matter of personal preference and could have been adjusted if desired. That is the great advantage of a fully active system - you can tailor it to your taste. I must confess that I quite enjoyed the "hot" treble setting for its fine detail but can understand that others prefer a more laid back presentation. Most commented that the bass was the best that could be recalled in the Haberfield room. The bass being extremely tight, powerful and coherent.

### *LATER AFTERNOON LISTENING SESSION*

The later session consisted of the Legend Big Red speakers but in passive mode without the DEQX system. Elson's push pull amps were used for the top boxes while the subs were crossed over at a fairly low level utilizing their built in 500 watt amps. This was also a good system. Consensus among members was that Elson's amps were smoother with a less prominent treble and were generally preferred for mid/ treble but the bass wasn't as good. Elson's amps did a very fine job, but without the DEQX there was much less flexibility. There are always varied reactions among members as to the performance of various mixes of systems depending on their listening biases and preferences.

Many of us are "I can't help myself" audiophile tinkerers and would love a DEQX system where we could mix and match different speakers without the pain of passive crossovers and the related problems of trying to get them right and being able to mix and match different power amplifiers. Personally, I would love to match the power and majesty of the DEQX fully active system with the smoothness of the valve amps. How about digital amps on the bass and valves on the mid/ treble fully digitally equalized - that would be interesting! The Big Red "compact" high performance speakers were great. In terms of power to weight/size ratio they were superb. Thank you Dr Crawford for such interesting toys.