

FUNKTION ONE

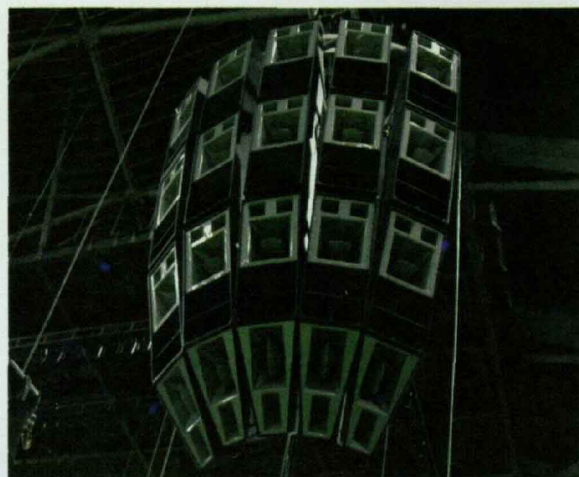
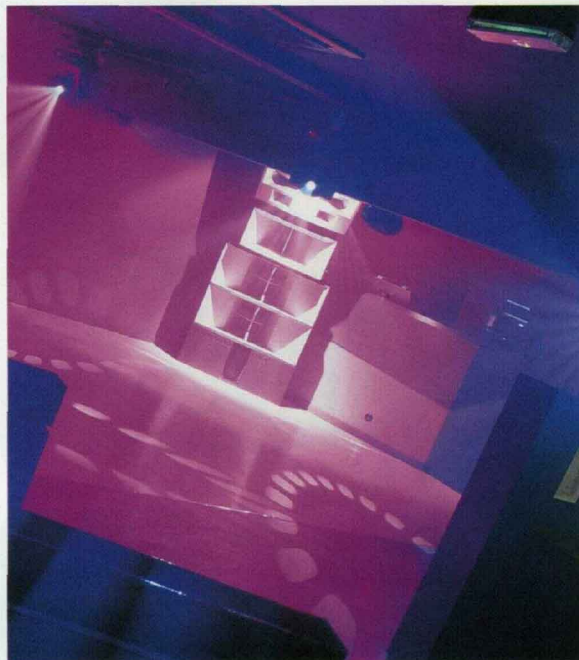
FUNKTION ON FORM BY WALTER MIRAURER

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The last time we reported on Funktion One in these pages it was, to offer the briefest of summaries, a small company poised at the threshold of greatness. So, where is it now, and what's been happening down on the Farm, the company's power base tucked away in leafy, soporific Surrey? Well, the ink on that last report was hardly dry before Funktion One made a very significant advance, incorporating proprietary technology. Before continuing, let me remind you what proprietary technology is. It means you can do things which others cannot. Last year they announced the Resolution 1, the first high power speaker system not to use a compression driver for the HF. If the advance was significant, the advantages were telling ones. Dramatically reduced distortion must come top of this list, resulting as it does in sound that is crisp, accurate and unfatiguing, even at high SPLs. The technique also provides a more smoothly integrated spectrum response and exemplary pattern control. Rivals have been unable to imitate or emulate this technology, and so the Res 1 remains unique, within its class, literally peerless.

Tony Andrews, whose creature Funktion One most assuredly is, has long been an advocate of quality amplification, of judicious matching between amp and speaker. His numerous and varied loudspeaker products have for years now come with underlined recommendations about suitable matching amplification. For a while now, Funktion One has itself sold 'suitable' amplifiers, commissioned from MC2, as companion units to its speaker systems. Today, you can delete the word 'suitable' and replace it with 'ideal' because, at the forthcoming Pro Light & Sound show in Frankfurt, Funktion One will launch its first powered loudspeakers, proven units with custom designed on-board amplification furnished by XTA. At launch, there will be two, twin channel offerings, A4, which is designed to partner Resolution 2 cabinets, and A6 which will power 2 x F218 Infrabass enclosures. Both units are Class T designs and boast impressive specifications. The A4 module adds a mere 3.2kg to the Res 2, which is hardly back breaking when you consider that it offers 1200W/ch into 4 Ohms, that it sports 96kHz DSP, which can be accessed via RS485 networking (the hardware is in situ, awaiting software), USB PC link-up for push button operation and is cooled by low noise demand regulated fans.

Figure fans will be impressed by the amp specs which include; 600V/ms Slew Rate; Damping Factor 1400; 5ms Rise Time; substantially flat response from around 15Hz to beyond 20kHz; miserly distortion of 0.005% @ 80kHz with a niggardly maximum of 0.25% at clip point ▶



Clockwise from top: Funktion One has found favour in a variety of venues, including Bergain in Berlin and Stealth in Nottingham; the smiles say it all - Tony Andrews and XTA Electronics' Andrew Grayland listening to the F218 Bass's new built in amplifier at the UK's Big Chill Festival; a cluster of Res2's; Funktion One's David Brum and XTA's Guy Lewis show show their working at this year's SIEL

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► into 8 Ohms, at which the output stages will swing 210V peak to peak. The A6 module gives similar data, but offers 2,250W/ch into 4 Ohms, having stiffer rails and 4.5kW regulated PSU. As well as driving the F218 into which it is mounted, the A4 will also power a sibling slave, making it highly cost-effective. If you are not a figures freak, if numbers leave you numb, then trust me, these are exemplary specifications, and you should expect great things if you make it to the Funktion One demo in Frankfurt. (As usual, they are in the chapel adjacent to Halle 4.) Two important milestones on this little company's path to greatness have already been achieved.

COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Away from the Farm and out in the field, Funktion One have been no less busy. The brand has quietly become a 'must have' in the danceclub and disco marketplace, where of course quiet is a word not often used. This industry has now come of age, and standards are as exacting as in any other part of the pro-audio arena. They benefit from the same level of close personal attention from the mothership too. Tony, John Newsham, Ann and David Bruml maintain a close personal relationship with their products and projects. The interest and commitment don't stop with the delivery note. The David Beckham Football Academy in Greenwich will have benefitted from the same level of attention to detail as the staggering stereo stacks at clubs like Digital in Newcastle. These are areas of business which Funktion One have developed consistently from their initial M.I. and touring base. In the context of club systems, Tony was disappointed that such sophisticated, accurate, powerful potential should still be degraded by the use of poor (even domestic) quality mixing systems that he went out and sourced a dedicated unit, from Formula Sound, to ensure that the full performance capability was unleashed. This is typical of the Andrews approach, sedulous to the extreme, but it would not be inappropriate to say that the emphasis in the title Funktion One, should be on fun, for it most definitely is. The notion is, however tempered by the knowledge that, unless the fundamentals are in place, any chance of fun flies out of the window. Funktion One has now built for itself an important niche in the marketplace as the small company that thinks (and achieves) big. And that's just great. www.funktion-one.com

Below: John Newsham of Funktion One checks on a Resolution 5 Cluster used for a Jamiroquai gig at Tokyo Dome
Bottom: Karl Hyde (left) and Rick Smith (right) from Underworld with the first self powered Resolution 2s in their studio



FRANÇAIS

La dernière fois que nous avons écrit un article sur Funktion One, c'était pour introduire une petite compagnie au seuil du succès. Que s'est-il passé depuis lors à la "ferme", son siège niche dans le paysage arboré du comté du Surrey? L'an dernier, Funktion One a lancé Resolution 1, le premier système de haut-parleurs haute puissance qui n'utilise pas de chambre de compression pour les hautes fréquences. La concurrence n'a pas pu imiter ou égaler cette technologie et le Res 1 reste unique en son genre dans sa catégorie. Le propriétaire, Tony Andrews, est depuis longtemps un apôtre de l'amplification de qualité - ses haut-parleurs, nombreux et variés, sont vendus depuis des années avec de fermes recommandations concernant les amplificateurs appropriés. Funktion One vend déjà ses propres amplificateurs "convenables" commandés à MC2, pour accompagner ses systèmes de haut-parleurs. A la prochaine exposition Pro Light & Sound, Funktion One lancera toutefois ses premiers enceintes à puissance, des unités équipées d'une amplification à bond conçue sur mesure créée par XTA. Si vous pouvez vous rendre à la démonstration de Funktion One à Frankfurt vous pouvez attendre à une superbe expérience.

DEUTSCH

Als wir zuletzt über Funktion One berichteten war es ein kleines Unternehmen mit großem Zukunftspotenzial. Was gibt's also Neues auf der „Farm“, dem versteckt in der grünen englischen Grafschaft Surrey gelegenen Hauptsitz der Firma? Letztes Jahr kündigte Funktion One die Einführung des Resolution 1 an - des ersten leistungsstarken Lautsprechersystems ohne Kompressionstreiber für den hohen Frequenzbereich. Die Konkurrenz hat es bisher nicht geschafft, ein vergleichbares Produkt auf den Markt zu bringen, der Res 1 bleibt daher in seiner Klasse unerreicht. Firmeninhaber Tony Andrews ist seit langem ein Verfechter von hochwertigen Verstärkeranlagen - seit Jahren empfiehlt er für seine vielen verschiedenen Lautsprecherprodukte die Verwendung geeigneter abgestimmter Verstärker. Seit einer Weile verkauft Funktion One nun selbst solche „geeigneten“ Verstärker die es als Ergänzung zu seinen Lautsprechersystemen bei MC2 in Auftrag gibt. Auf der bevorstehenden Pro Light & Sound will Funktion One jetzt seine ersten gepowerten Lautsprecher auf den Markt bringen - maßgeschneiderte Geräte mit einem integrierten Verstärkungssystem von XTA. Die Besucher der Funktion One-Demo in Frankfurt dürfen also schon mal neugierig sein.

ITALIANO

L'ultima volta che abbiamo parlato di Funktion One era per presentare una piccola grande azienda, in procinto di esplodere sui mercati di tutto il mondo. Ci chiedevamo quindi cosa stesse succedendo alla Fam, il quartier generale della società, nascosto nel più profondo Surrey... bene, l'anno scorso la Funktion One ha annunciato il lancio di Resolution 1, il primo sistema di altoparlanti high power a non utilizzare un driver di compressione per le alte frequenze. La concorrenza non è stata in grado di imitare o emulare questa tecnologia e quindi i Res 1 rimangono un prodotto unico nella propria classe. Tony Andrews, il proprietario, è da tempo un paladino dell'amplificazione di qualità. I numerosi altoparlanti dell'azienda recano da anni consigli e suggerimenti sugli amplificatori da utilizzare con i propri prodotti. Funktion One vende anche alcuni amplificatori, prodotti da MC2, come unità compatibili con i propri sistemi di altoparlanti. All'imminente mostra Pro Light & Sound, tuttavia, Funktion One lancerà i primi altoparlanti con amplificazione on-board customizzata da XTA. Non mancate dunque di visitare lo stand di Funktion One a Francoforte.

ESPAÑOL

La última vez que hablamos de Funktion One fue para presentar a una pequeña empresa llamada a ser una de las grandes. ¿Qué ha pasado últimamente en Farm, la sede central de la sociedad radicada en el verde Surrey? El año pasado lanzaron el Resolution 1, el primer sistema de altavoces que no utiliza un controlador de compresión para las altas frecuencias. La competencia no ha sido capaz de imitar o emular esta tecnología y, por tanto, el Res 1 sigue siendo un producto único en su clase. Su propietario, Tony Andrews, es, desde hace mucho tiempo, defensor de la amplificación de calidad, y sus numerosos y variados productos de altavoces incluyen desde hace años recomendaciones firmes sobre los amplificadores más adecuados correspondientes. Desde hace tiempo, Funktion One vende amplificadores "adecuados", puestos en servicio desde MC2, como unidades de acompañamiento de sus sistemas de altavoces. Sin embargo, en la próxima feria Pro Light & Sound, Funktion One va a lanzar sus primeros altavoces alimentados, unidades con amplificación on-board diseñada a medida y creada por XTA. Si acude a la demostración de Funktion One en Frankfurt, seguro que no sale defraudado.