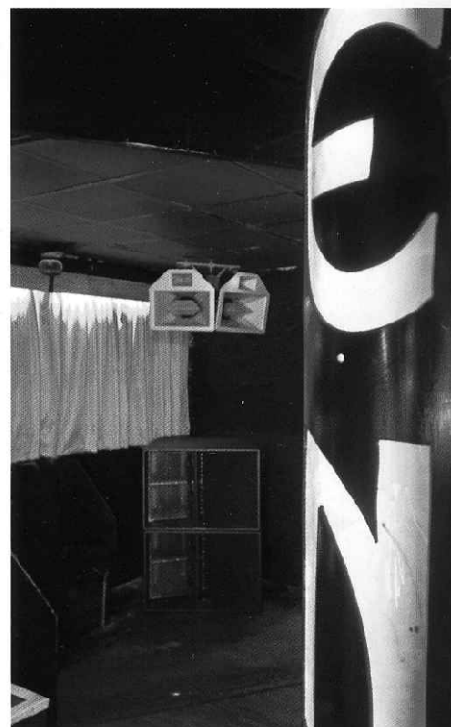


TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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BLUE BOX GIVE GREEN LIGHT FOR FUNKTION ONE AT CLUB V

Club V on Manchester's popular Deansgate stretch has enjoyed a long and established reputation as one of the best small nightclubs in the city. For 10 years the club has run notorious night Venus, and provided a friendly and welcoming attitude, an uplifting atmosphere and cutting-edge, dancefloor-filling house music. Club V continues to pack its sweaty, underground space week in week out, but the owners felt the time was right to upgrade the 360-capacity venue with a more boutique style and modern technology in order to match the current clubbing scene in the city.

Dean and Louise Stogsdill, who own and operate the venue, said: "The market was becoming tougher and the choice for our customers was wider in the nighttime industry in Manchester, due to the opening of two new venues in January 08. We had a system that was adequate, but not outstanding and we needed to compete at the highest level." With a commitment to invest in the best possible system available, the couple approached install company Blue Box-London. Dean commented: "The Blue Box guys were the best in the business and once I had chatted to people within the industry about their installs - particularly at Space in Ibiza and Pure in Manchester - we knew we wanted to work with them."

Blue Box-London has a 20-year history of installing

high specification sound systems, mainly in the club industry. All their systems are designed around the highly individual Funktion One series loudspeakers, coupled with XTA digital processing, MC2 amplifiers and an experienced design ethic.

The company has installed major venues, such as Heaven in London, Mezzanine in San Francisco, Privilege in Ibiza and BCM in Majorca, but it is their install at Space in Ibiza that holds most similarity with what they've done at Club V. Explained Blue Box-London's Mark Metcalf: "It is essentially a modified version of the system we installed on the Terrace at Space in Ibiza, which has been more highly praised than any other Funktion One system, with the possible exception of Cielo in New York." But Club V gets the addition of the 21" bass bin, which was used in the main room of Space last year, with phenomenal success.

Blue Box-London supplied a Split Funktion One system for Club V, with the new 21" bass bins on the low end and the Res 2SH mid highs which, being skeletal, take up minimum space in the low ceilings of the venue. Metcalf said: "We used a similar set up in Suite one8one in San Francisco and later in Heaven's Island lounges, both in London and Ibiza, and it proved very popular with both architects, who liked it's low

profile, and DJs, who liked the high sound quality. The Club V system is effectively a souped up version of the original, with the implementation of the 21" bass speakers. This is the first time they have been used in this application."

Club V is a lengthy venue, and the space is split consecutively into several dancefloor areas partially boxed off by columns and podiums, with a chill out lounge at the back by the rear bar. To provide a softer sound for the outer areas and the chill out lounge, Blue Box-London implemented a couple of F118s, again with Res 2SH mid highs and in the lounge a pair of F81 fill speakers. Metcalf continued: "We've also been able to use the new XIA 4 series controllers for the first time, with their improved algorithms and exceptional sonic clarity."

The sound is backed up by quality kit in the DJ booth: two Pioneer CDJ-1000 Mk3 turntables, a Pioneer DJM-800 mixer and two GS 15" monitors.

Dean said of Blue Box-London: "It was a pleasure to work with them during the fit out and their aftercare has been superb. The sound we have now is second to none. We have the best small venue in Manchester, with the best sound. It all came at a high price, but the best things in life are not always free."

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