

## Dance Stack Review

Club Systems NOVEMBER 2002

Page 1 of 1



This fixture incorporates a scanning solid state laser with a 575-watt moving head! The nice men over at **MA Lighting** ([www.malighting.de](http://www.malighting.de)), a German company, showed me their **grandMA light** and **ultra-light consoles** with touch screen control, scaled-down versions of the very large grandMA, and gave me a small stretchy promo T-shirt with foreign characters on it that were later revealed to spell out, "Push to erect." Apparently that's what it says above one of the distinctive buttons on their consoles. Right. Leicester-based **Abstract** ([www.abstractvrx.com](http://www.abstractvrx.com)) made their products' club applications the central focus of their booth, which was set up like a smoky, dark lounge (and won PLASA booth of the year), complete with dancers so bad I almost missed the **Gemini** girls. Their boldly colored **VRX Scanners** (available in silver, graphite, white, red, cobalt blue, and yellow) are slick, quick, cute, and sturdy, as is the entire VRX line. But even with such notable introductions at the show, conventional lighting was overshadowed by its cool cousin: LED. **Pulsar's** ([www.pulsar.com](http://www.pulsar.com)) candy-colored booth (shared with **Clay Paky**) introduced the **ChromaDeck**, or "where LED modular staging and flooring becomes a reality." Think color-changing dance floor. Then there's Pulsar's **Chromasphere**, a large globe illuminated from within; **PixelPar's** ([www.pixelpar.com](http://www.pixelpar.com)) **Pixel Line 1044**, the ultimate ceiling decoration; and **Lagotronics'** ([www.lagoled.com](http://www.lagoled.com)) **LagoLED-DEKO panels**, LED-lit acrylic pieces that can be used as everything from tabletops to flooring. The speaker companies seemed to congregate on the second floor (unless their booth included a roof deck and backyard), so after indulging in some shameful "New York-style pizza" (the Brits should stick to chips where junk food's concerned) up the escalators I went. **Turbosound** introduced a new line of passive speakers meant for fixed installations, still unnamed at the time of the show. And the UK's **Funktion-One** ([www.funktion-one.com](http://www.funktion-one.com)) displayed the most interesting bit of dance music-specific gear I've seen in a long time – the **Dance Stack**, a four-way speaker system with sub bass,



bass/low-mid, mid range, and high frequency in three separate but interlocking parts, time-aligned by design and therefore not in need of equalization. The visually imposing piece has rounded corners and a bulbous design, and an overall shiny, synthetic look. Look for it in two already selected American "flagship" clubs in early 2003.

Three short days and my trip was done. I landed safely in New York on the night of September 10, having mastered the Tube, record-shopped in Soho, walked miles in a single building, but since my visit fell over the inherently non-festive days of Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, not stepped foot inside a single nightclub. So take heed, London...I'll be back. We have unfinished business.

Clockwise from top left: Pulsar's glowing booth; Maltbury's elegant truss; Abstract's VRX series; PixelPar's booth (the Pixel Line's up top); a rendering of Funktion-One's Dance Stack; Spacewriter's booth (showing Optispace product); DARE's pod speaker.

