

I've got the Power

The signs this year are clearly pointing towards “upswing”. Most of our industry is preparing for a good summer, with lots of concerts, events and parties. Because of this, it's only fitting that more and more new equipment from different manufacturers is being presented. In the past two years or so, we have seen a lot of new products for digital events or small events, but now products for larger productions are also being presented again. It fits perfectly into this period that LD Systems has also presented new loudspeakers and sound reinforcement systems. The

Stinger G3 systems are available in different versions and sizes. One of the largest sets is the Stinger G3 Power Set, consisting of two subwoofers and two tops. We received the Stinger G3 Power Set from the Adam Hall Group and were able to test it extensively.

A palette full of sound

The Stinger G3 Power Set consists of two 18” subwoofers, two 12” tops, roller boards for the subwoofers, and protective

covers for all speakers. It's not really surprising, then, that you can't just buy this setup from the dealer next door and drive it to the warehouse in your car. The Stinger G3 Power Set is delivered on a pallet, and therefore well protected. All of the systems in the Stinger G3 range are available in active and passive versions. This means that the speakers either have integrated controllers or power amplifiers, or that they are controlled via an external device. For our test, we were sent the active version of the Stinger G3 Power Set, which in turn results in all of the speakers having a substantial weight. Therefore, we were a little surprised when unloading the pallet, as the PA is advertised as “compact and easy to transport”. Thanks to the roller boards, the subwoofers are indeed easier to transport than without. Nevertheless, the system is only really transportable with a loading ramp-equipped van, or with two people. Whether the total weight of around 145 kilograms is reflected in a good sound is something we'll find out later in the test. But first, let's take a closer look at the individual components and their specifications. As already mentioned, the subwoofers have an 18” woofer with a 4” voice coil. A Class D amplifier, with a maximum output of 1,600 watts, is installed in each subwoofer. The reproduced frequency response starts at 35 Hertz and ends at 80, 100 or 120 Hertz, depending on the low-pass setting. This selection is made on the back of the unit, where, as a fourth option, you can also select whether the subwoofer should run in a cardioid mode. This is possible if you use three subwoofers of this type, two of which are directed to the front, and one to the rear. The frequency response rises steeply from the above-mentioned 35 Hertz to 80 Hertz, only to drop steeply again depending on the crossover frequency.





A roller board can be attached to the back of the subwoofer.

3,000 Hertz, and then rises slightly to 20,000 Hertz. This setting should be selected if you want to use the speaker individually. If, on the other hand, you use it with the subwoofers in the set, you should select the Satellite preset. The frequency response here starts at 80 Hertz; the curve is straight from about 100 to 800 Hertz, then drops slightly to about 3,000 Hertz and then rises again slightly to 20,000 Hertz. Monitor applications are also possible with this PA speaker; indeed, the cabinet is shaped for this purpose. The frequency response in this configuration rises – quite suitably – from about 80 Hertz, straight from 150 Hertz to 14,000 Hertz, and then falls off to 20,000 Hertz.

In terms of workmanship and connection options, both the subwoofer and the PA speakers fulfil all conceivable user wishes and requirements. The Stinger G3 Power Set is primarily aimed at professional users, and so the PA is constructed of high-quality birch plywood with a robust polyurea coating. The wood ensures a balanced sound distribution, and the coating provides good protection against impacts and the like.

The PA speakers included in the set are no less powerful, and have many professional features. They each consist of a 12" woofer and a 1" tweeter driver. The frequency response ranges from 58 to 20,000 Hertz, and the maximum sound pressure level is 131 dB. As with the subwoofer, the tops can also be adjusted on the back of the

unit. The DSP has four different pre-programmed sound characteristics. The user can choose between Full-Range, Satellite, Monitor and Flat. With the Full-Range frequency curve, the frequency response starts at the aforementioned 58 Hertz, rises steeply to about 80 Hertz, then drops again slightly to about

Stinger G3 Power Set

Product description:

Sound reinforcement system

Special features:

Frequency range: 35-20,000 Hz
Beam angle: 90 x 50 degrees

Dimensions + weight:

Top: 39 x 62.7 x 37.7cm; 20.1kg
Sub 67.6 x 54.7 x 74cm; 42.6kg

Price (plus VAT):

€ 3,889.91

Distribution:

Adam Hall Group



The tops are shaped in such a way that they can also be used as monitors.

Review : LD Systems “Stinger G3 Power Set”



Thanks to the flange on the top of the subwoofer, a distance rod can be used

This makes this PA system suitable for tough everyday touring or frequently changing areas of use. In terms of connections, the user will

find XLR inputs on the subwoofers for both the left and right channels. Directly below them are the outputs for going directly into the tops, or connecting

additional subwoofers. The inputs of the tops, on the other hand, are XLR/jack combo sockets. This means that you can operate these speakers without a subwoofer and still use the two output signals. There is also an XLR output for an additional mono mix, which can be used, for example, if you want to supply another loudspeaker in a different location with the same signal from the main PA.

Top in all Frequencies

The manufacturer's website specifies the PA's area of application as live events, large private parties, or corporate events. Furthermore, according to LD Systems, the system is suitable for audiences of up to 350 people.



The speakers in the Stinger Series are made of birch plywood and painted with a robust polyurea coating.

These are, of course, specifications that need to be reconsidered, especially in current times, as the number of number of spectators no longer goes hand in hand with the size of the location. If we imagine “pre-pandemic conditions”, we would even go one better with this PA and suggest it would be suitable for sound reinforcement for up to 500 people, or even an area of about 800 m². Setup is extremely easy, as all inputs and outputs are labelled, and the DSP settings are clearly laid out. Ideally, a mixing console should be used to send the signal to the PA, but this should be self-evident given the size of the Stinger G3 Power Set. The tops can be easily mounted on the subwoofers using a distance pole. Unfortunately, distance poles are not included in the scope of delivery, which

would have been useful and desirable for a PA of this size. However, the developers of the system paid attention to the fact that the PA could possibly be installed when creating the design. It is sufficiently sized to suit most clubs, and therefore it is also possible to mount the system on walls, as well as ceilings via ceiling brackets.

Without a doubt, the name ‘LD Systems’ was mostly equated to semi-professional speakers in the lower price segment a few years ago. Those who still hold this opinion should change it with this PA at the very latest. The workmanship and features alone give a strong idea of the audio quality that will ultimately reach the ear. The sound produced by this PA is of exceedingly high quality in all

frequency ranges. With the Stinger G3 Power Set, parties with bass-heavy music such as EDM, hip-hop or pop can be catered for without any problems. However, speech events can also be carried out at a very high level, and we would even recommend this system for classical concerts. The resolution in the treble is fine and very well tuned, right down to the smallest detail. Even in the lower frequency range, the accompanying subwoofer delivers exceptionally on all fronts. The bass pushes pleasantly, without distorting or sounding obtrusive. The Stinger G3 Power Set is most certainly more than sufficient for events of the sizes previously mentioned. But, if you need even more power, you can easily hook up additional subwoofers and tops. ✕



The subwoofers in the Stinger G3 Power Set deliver a very high, perceptible sound pressure.

CONCLUSION

With the Stinger G3 Power Set, LD Systems has completely left the semi-professional field and now plays in the upper leagues in terms of sound. The workmanship of all of the components is flawless. Only the scope of delivery could have been extended, in our opinion, either by distance poles for live applications, or suspension brackets for installations. However, with the Stinger G3 Power Set, the user gets a fully-equipped PA with an extremely high quality sound, regardless of whether music or speech is on the agenda.