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Dynaco Model A-25 Speaker System

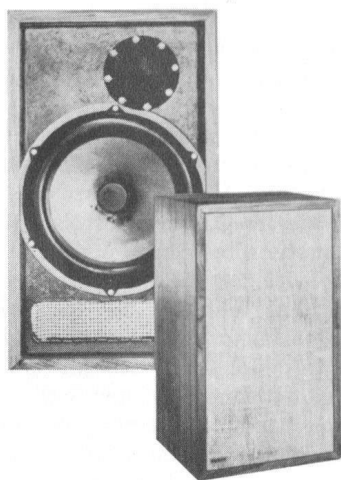


Fig. 1—Dynaco A-25 Loudspeaker System.

MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS:

Two-way System—10-in. woofer, friction loaded; 1½-in. dome tweeter. Frequency Response: 47-20,000 Hz ± 5 dB; Power Handling Capacity: 35 watts; Crossover Frequency: 1500 Hz; Impedance: 8 ohms. Grille Material: linen beige; Weight: 20 lbs. Price: \$79.95 in oiled walnut; \$89.95 in teak or rosewood.

The A-25 marks Dynaco's entry into the speaker field. Until now, Dyna Company has manufactured amplifiers, preamplifiers, tuners and has marketed a tape recorder made in Denmark. All of their products have had one thing in common: high-quality of performance, at moderate cost. The A-25, also made in Denmark, turns out to be an addition to Dyna's successes, being an outstanding performer for under \$80.

A 10-in. acoustic suspension woofer, operating in a damped, ducted-port en-

closure, provides bass frequencies right up to 1500 Hz, at which time a soft dome tweeter takes over and goes on up to the top of the audible range. The port at the bottom of the cabinet is stuffed with fiberglas, which offers some resistance and causes more of an infinite-baffle-type acoustic suspension than a ducted port, as we know it. The crossover network is a two-section filter with a stepped attenuator control, recessed in the rear of the speaker cabinet, which provides five steps of treble operation. Each step is just under 3 dB at 10 kHz, so that the ± 2 steps around the "normal" setting offer just under ± 6 dB of high-frequency change. This should be enough to adapt the speaker to most listening environments, which is the manufacturer's intent. Its nominal impedance is 8 ohms.

The speaker system is legitimate bookshelf size: 20-in. wide by 11½-in. high, by 10-in. deep. Or it can be used in an upright position just as well. A nice mounting convenience feature is the built-in mounting brackets which

allow for either horizontal or vertical wall mounting of the unit on either the #6 screws (supplied) or small hooks. This beats drilling in order to mount eyes in the speaker cabinet. The speaker elements are mounted from the front and covered by a tightly woven, beige grille cloth on a wooden frame (glued to the baffle). The cabinet is finished in a dark oiled walnut on all four sides.

While the A-25 exhibited an excellent frequency response of 60 to 15,000 ± 6 dB in our averaged room tests, it was its outstanding transient response which really impressed us. Tone bursts throughout the meaningful frequency range showed up its excellence. In truth, the A-25 produced the finest tone-burst response of any speaker tested in this manner, regardless of price. A clue to the smooth response was found when we examined its impedance through the audible range and found it to be nearly constant. It never

went below four ohms. Among other things, this means that several units can be paralleled and successfully driven by a power amplifier that likes to look at loads greater than two ohms in order for it to produce significant power, safely. For example, three A-25's per channel, operating in three rooms, lets say, could work well off a 60-watt (rms) power amplifier. Thus, series/parallel switching arrangements are not necessary for a multiple-room speaker setup.

We found the system to be at the efficient end of low-efficiency systems. We recommend an amplifier of 25 watts continuous power per channel (rms) as a good match for average conditions. Many applications could be found, however, which could make this figure go either way by two (halving or doubling). The A-25 can handle hefty amounts of power and certainly doesn't sound like a small box.

The high frequencies are widely dispersed, which also significantly contributes to its overall smoothness, despite a small peak at 9 kHz. The bass rolls off sharply below 60 Hz, while the harmonic distortion is very low all the way down to 50 Hz, increasing gradually below that frequency. In extended listening tests, the smooth measured response and excellent transient response showed up as a relatively uncolored, neutral sound. With one click up on the high-frequency attenuator, the speaker sounded a little more open or brighter of sound, especially on clean source material. On not-so-clean material, a slight harshness of sound developed. Except for the deficiency in the lowest audible octave, it is difficult to fault the moderately priced Dynaco A-25 speaker system.

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