

DLS FLATBOX XL/MIDI



Very good sound
Good price/performance ratio



Lacks Triad's presence
and resolution

SOPHISTICATED BUT HARDLY FLAT

DLS has a clean, simple, rectilinear design. The front speakers comprise three Flatbox XLS. This is a two-way design with double 4-inch paper cone woofers flanking a 30 millimetre coated soft-dome tweeter. The enclosures are ported via slots on the sides, which allow better breathing since they don't exit straight towards a wall. The rear channels are handled by the smaller, similarly designed Flatbox Midi. They have the same speaker set up as their larger brother minus one woofer. The rear of the enclosure has twin key-hole fixing points for horizontal or vertical mounting. You can choose between the standard matt white finish or pay a little extra for high-gloss black. The standard design provides both black and white front grilles, making the speakers more adaptable to their surroundings.

The slotted bass-reflex ports allow the DLS's to breathe well despite wall mounting. The terminals are of the spring loaded type. Magnus likes them, but I prefer screwed connectors.



Listening impression

The DLS-sound is presented in a really homogenous and coherent fashion. I appreciated the sound image from the speakers which is relatively large and stable, framed by good perspective characteristics, but still far enough away to prevent the listener from tiring too quickly. I was impressed by the traditional-type rear channels which painted an almost bi-polar sound image from the rear. The DLS speakers lack a little of the Triad's supreme resolution, but are otherwise a very pleasant experience that should suite the requirements of most listeners.



Package	Canton GLE 446 5.1	Dali Mentor LCR 5.1	Definitive Technology Mythos Ten/Gem
Model	GLE 446	Mentor LCR	MythosTen
Position	Front/centre/surround	Front/centre/surround	Front/centre
Principle	Sealed	Bass-reflex	Passive bass radiator
Drive units	2 x 5.25-inch woofers, 1-inch tweeter	5-inch woofer, 28 mm tweeter, 45 mm ribbon tweeter	2 x 5.25-inch woofers, 2 x 5-x 8 inch oval passive bass radiators, 1-inch tweeter
Impedance	4-8 Ohm	6 Ohm	8 Ohm
Sensitivity	Not provided	86 dB	93 dB
Size (WxHxD)	17 x 45.5 x 10 cm	65.5 x 16.2 x 15.1 cm	11.1 x 87.6 x 11.4 cm
Weight	5 kg	6.7 kg	9.5 kg
Model	X	X	X
Position			
Principle			
Drive units			
Impedance			
Sensitivity			
Size (WxHxD)			
Weight			
Model	X	X	Definitive Technology Mythos Gem XL
Position			Surround
Principle			Sealed
Drive units			2 x 4.5-inch woofers, 1-inch tweeter
Impedance			8 Ohm
Sensitivity			89 dB
Size (WxHxD)			11.4 x 32.1 x 14 cm
Weight			3.4 kg
Finish	White	Black or white, gloss 50	Black
Price	SEK 14,500	SEK 30,000	SEK 34,000
Info	www.canton.se	www.hifiklubben.com	www.definitivetech.com



A really good
medium-class
choice



- **GOOD PRICE/
PERFORMANCE
COMPROMISE**
- **RESOLUTION AND
COHERENT SOUND**
- **FLEXIBLE WALL FIXING**



After chat

That the most expensive speakers were the best is almost as predictable as that the cheapest couldn't really keep in touch with their dearer competitors. However, there are four participants that can't really be judged just by looking at the price tag. If we start from the beginning with Canton, the GLE package is pleasant and affordable. If you don't mind a little sharpness from the tweeters, you get an awful lot for your money in a well engineered shell. In my opinion, the Dali's look most impressive with the front grilles off. This exhibits the delicious ribbon tweeters and the company's significant wood-fibre reinforced bass cones. The enclosures are both high and relatively thick, but well built.

Speaking of heavy armament, Definitive Technology with their passive bass radiators and phase-plug equipped woofers provide a really funky design. High sensitivity and real power handling capacity allow them to play loudest < in this test, and they are also high in the quality stakes. DLS feels synonymous with "just right".

Not the most expensive, not the best (just next best), but very good and considerably cheaper than test winner Triad. A very good buy in the intermediate class and the most sensible buy in this test, with all parameters taken into account.

Dynavoice costs a third of the next cheapest system (Canton), which in itself is an achievement. You won't hear any direct faults, but it feels a little rough and ready compared with the considerably more expensive competitors. Apart from this criticism, Dynavoice has amazingly high performance compared to its price tag!

James, with its strict design in aircraft-grade aluminium also hides some interesting technology behind the rugged metal grille. In addition, its sound presentation is very pleasant, even if James doesn't quite reach the levels of resolution and coherence that Triad and DLS do. Finally, we have the most expensive and best sounding loudspeaker in the test, in the form of the Triads. If you've got the cash, there's not much to hesitate about!

DLS Flatbox XL/Midi	Dynavoice Challenger 5.1	James Loudspeaker 660W/630W/620W	Triad On Wall Bronze LCR/Surround
Flatbox XL	Challenger S-5 Ex	660W	Triad On Wall Bronze LCR
Front/centre	Front/centre/surround	Front	Front/centre
Bass-reflex	Bass-reflex	Sealed	Sealed
2x 4-inch woofers, 30 mm tweeter	5-inch woofer, 1-inch tweeter	2x 6.5-inch woofers, 4x 1-inch tweeters	2x 5.5-inch woofers, 1-inch tweeter
4 Ohm	4-8 Ohm	8 Ohm	4 Ohm
89 dB	Not provided	95 dB	89 dB
22 x 63 x 9.2 cm	17 x 33.5 x 21.5 cm	25 x 68.5 x 7 cm	25.4 x 71.2 x 10.2 cm
5.9 kg	4.5 kg	9 kg	16.5 kg
X	X	630W	X
		Centre	
		Infinite baffle	
		2x 6.5-inch woofers, 1-inch tweeter	
		8 Ohm	
		92 dB	
		25 x 60.7 x 7 cm	
		8 kg	
DLS Flatbox Midi	X	James Loudspeaker 620W	Triad On Wall Bronze Surround
Surround		Surround	Surround
Bass-reflex		Sealed	Sealed
4-inch woofer, 30 mm tweeter		6.5-inch woofer, 1-inch tweeter	5-inch woofer, 2x 3-inch medium range
8 Ohm		4 Ohm	4 Ohm
88 dB		91 dB	83 dB
21 x 38 x 9.2 cm		25 x 40.5 x 7 Cm	32 x 33.7 x 9 cm
4 kg		5.8 kg	6.4 kg
Matt white (gloss black at extra cost)	Oak, black oak	White, custom (own colour choice + SEK 7,500)	Twenty+ different veneers and colour alternatives
SEK 15,000	SEK 2,500	SEK 61,500	SEK 40,800
www.dls.se	www.dynavoice.se	www.jamesloudspeaker.com	www.triadspeakers.com