THREE SPEAKER ARRAYS

More and more people are calling and writing us about a three speaker array. We recommend our BELLE KLIPSCH or LA SCALA as a center speaker between our KLIPSCHORN, LA SCALA or BELLE KLIPSCH as flanking speakers. We do not like to use our HERESY or CORNWALL speakers between totally horn-loaded speakers.

If you are aware of the history of our HERESY speaker, you may wonder why we adopt this heretical attitude. Back in 1955, we were trying to revive the teachings of The Bell Telephone Laboratories in the use of a center speaker bridged across 2 stereo channels. At that time, we built only corner speakers, and I was designing a non-corner speaker for the center channel. Our then Eastern sales representative, Hank Goodman, looked at my sketches and said, “that, coming from you, would be heresy’. I grabbed that idea and named the speaker “Klipsch’s HERESY”. But we found, over the years, that its distortion is perceptibly higher than that of our horn systems. Now, don’t jump to wrong conclusions. Our HERESY exhibits lower distortion than any other speaker of its size and price. But it is still not an all-horn system. Having a direct-radiator bass unit, its distortion in the bass range is inevitably higher than that of our horn systems, and the cruel fact remains that the speaker system with the highest distortion determines the distortion level of the entire stereo array. Thus, we recommend an all-horn system, like our BELLE KLIPSCH or LA SCALA for use as a center speaker between flanking all-horn speakers.

Where CORNWALL or HERESY speakers are used on the flanks, it is entirely feasible to use them also in the center of the array.

This would be a good time to remind you that the flanking speakers should be in corners if possible and should be arrayed with about 45° “toe-in”. ²,³

When a customer demands totally horn-loaded flanking speakers, but asks for a less expensive center channel, simply suggest he settle for a two speaker array until he can afford the correct speaker for the channel.

The perceived distortion is that of the poorest speaker in the array. This is especially noticeable for center stage sounds. The center speaker reproduces center stage events, and the soloist, if there is one. It should be at least as good and clean as the flanking speakers.

KEEP IT CLEAN!

Paul W. Klipsch

¹Symposium on Auditory Perspective, 1934. Reprints of this are available at $1.00.
²DOPE FROM HOPE, Vol. 14, No. 4, “Bridged Center Speaker.”
³DOPE FROM HOPE, Vol. 15, No. 2, “Toe-In”.

Δ...The mark of integrity in loudspeakers!

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