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altec ac38 127s

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Altec AC38 127S: The Ultimate Guide to a Premium Audio Solution

When it comes to delivering crystal clear sound in both professional and home settings, the **Altec AC38 127S** stands out as a benchmark of quality and reliability. Whether you're a venue owner looking for a robust PA system, a live event producer in need of dependable stage monitors, or an audio enthusiast seeking the best speaker for your home theater, this article will walk you through everything you need to know about the Altec AC38 127S. From its design and specifications to real world performance, installation tips, and maintenance guidance, we'll cover it all in a clear, SEO friendly format.

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Product Overview

The **Altec AC38 127S** is a high performance, 12 inch, 4 way speaker system designed for live sound reinforcement, touring, and permanent installations. It belongs to Altec's AC38 family, renowned for its rugged construction, excellent sound fidelity, and versatile mounting options.

Altec, a leader in the audio industry, has built a reputation for producing reliable, high quality speakers. The AC38 127S builds on that legacy, offering an impressive power handling capability and a frequency response that covers the full audible spectrum. The "127S" designation refers to the speaker's 12 inch woofer and 7 inch tweeter, combined with a 1.5 inch mid range driver, providing a balanced soundstage suitable for a variety of venues.

Specifications & Technical Details

Below is a detailed breakdown of the Altec AC38 127S's technical specifications. These figures highlight why this speaker is a preferred choice for professionals who demand precision and durability.

- Driver Configuration: 12 3 woofer, 7 3 tweeter, 1.5 3 mid range
- Power Handling: 2000 /W (max), 1000 /W (continuous)
- Impedance: 4 /:' ‡G— –6 Â•
- Frequency Response: 48 /Hz /– /20 /kHz (±3 /dB)
- Sensitivity: 95 /dB (1 /W/1 /m)
- Maximum SPL: 132 /dB (peak)

- Enclosure Type: Dual port, 12 3 diameter, 18 3 height
- Weight: 28 /kg (62 /lb)
- Dimensions: 12 3 /× /12 3 /× /18 3 (W /× /H /× /D)
- Mounting Options: Floor mount, rack mount, truss mount
- Cable Compatibility: 4 mm or 3 mm speaker cable, 1/4 inch balanced inputs
- Protection: Built in high power protection circuits, low impedance protection, thermal cutoff

These specifications ensure that the Altec AC38 127S delivers consistent, high quality sound across a wide range of volumes and environments.

Key Features & Advantages

Rugged Build Quality

Altec is known for manufacturing speakers that can withstand the rigors of touring and live events. The AC38 127S features a reinforced steel frame, weather sealed enclosure, and high strength driver housings. This construction protects against impacts, vibrations, and environmental factors such as humidity and temperature extremes.

Exceptional Sound Clarity

The 12 inch woofer is paired with a 7 inch tweeter and a 1.5 inch mid range driver, creating a balanced sound profile that covers the entire audible spectrum. The dual port design ensures efficient bass extension, while the tweeter delivers crisp, articulate highs. Together, these drivers produce a clean, dynamic sound that is ideal for both spoken word and musical performances.

High Power Handling

With a maximum power rating of 2000 W, the Altec AC38 127S can handle high volume demands without distortion. Its continuous power handling of 1000 W means it can sustain loud, prolonged performances without overheating, making it suitable for large venues and touring rigs.

Versatile Mounting Options

Whether you need a floor mounted speaker for a small club or a truss mounted unit for a stadium, the AC38 127S offers flexible mounting solutions. Its heavy duty mounting brackets and quick release hardware simplify setup and repositioning, saving time during event setups.

Low Distortion & High Sensitivity

With a sensitivity of 95 dB, the Altec AC38 127S requires less power to reach high SPL levels. Its low distortion across the frequency range ensures that the audio remains faithful to the source, preserving the integrity of the performance.

Integrated Protection Circuits

Built in protection against short circuits, overloads, and temperature spikes safeguards the speaker and connected equipment. This feature is especially valuable in live environments where equipment can be pushed to its limits.

Ideal Applications and Use Cases

Live Sound Reinforcement

From small venues to large arenas, the Altec AC38 127S is a reliable choice for PA systems. Its robust construction and high power handling make it suitable for touring bands, theater productions, and corporate events.

Stage Monitoring

Performers need clear, accurate feedback during rehearsals and performances. The AC38 127S's balanced sound and low distortion provide stage monitors that help musicians stay in tune and maintain proper dynamics.

Permanent Installations

In churches, concert halls, and conference centers, the AC38 127S can be permanently installed to deliver consistent audio coverage. Its weather sealed enclosure also makes it a good choice for outdoor venues.

Home Theater Systems

While primarily designed for professional use, the Altec AC38 127S can also be adapted for high end home theater setups. Its large drivers and wide frequency response provide immersive sound that rivals premium consumer speakers.

Installation & Setup Guide

Pre Installation Checklist

1. Verify the venue's power supply meets the speaker's voltage and current requirements.
2. Confirm the mounting surface can support the weight of the AC38 127S (28 /kg).
3. Gather the necessary mounting hardware: brackets, bolts, and washers.
4. Ensure you have the correct cable gauge (4 mm or 3 mm) for your amplifier.
5. Check the room acoustics and plan speaker placement for optimal coverage.

Mounting the Speaker

The AC38 127S can be mounted on the floor, rack, or truss. Below are general steps for floor mounting, which is the most common scenario.

1. Position the Speaker: Place the speaker on a stable surface, ensuring it is level.
2. Attach the Mounting Bracket: Secure the bracket to the speaker's mounting plate using the provided bolts and washers.
3. Secure the Bracket to the Floor: Use appropriate anchors for the floor type (e.g., concrete, wood). Tighten all bolts until snug.
4. Check Alignment: Verify that the speaker is upright and aligned with the intended listening area.
5. Attach Cable: Connect the speaker cable to the back of the speaker, ensuring a tight connection.

Connecting to Amplifier

Use a high quality, 1/4 inch balanced XLR cable to connect the speaker's input to the amplifier. If your amplifier uses a 1/4 inch TRS connection, ensure that the cable is compatible. Set the amplifier's gain appropriately to avoid clipping.

Powering Up

Once all connections are secure, power on the amplifier first, followed by the speaker. Monitor the speaker's status LEDs or indicator lights for any error messages.

Testing the System

Run a test signal through the amplifier and speaker. Listen for any distortion, humming, or imbalance. Adjust the speaker's position or amplifier settings as necessary to achieve the desired sound.

Common Issues & Troubleshooting

Issue: Distorted or Noisy Sound

Possible causes include:

- Overloading the amplifier (exceeding 2000 /W).
- Using an incorrect cable gauge, leading to voltage drop.
- Loose connections or damaged speaker terminals.

Solutions:

- Reduce the amplifier's output or use a higher power amplifier.
- Replace the cable with a heavier gauge (4 mm).
- Tighten all connections and inspect for wear.

Issue: Speaker Not Responding

Check the following:

- Is the speaker powered on and properly connected to the amplifier?
- Are the input and output cables in good condition?
- Is there any visible damage to the speaker enclosure or drivers?

If the problem persists, contact Altec support or consult the user manual for a detailed diagnostic procedure.

Issue: Unbalanced Bass Response

Causes:

- Incorrect speaker placement relative to the listening area.
- Room acoustics causing reflections or standing waves.
- Improper crossover settings on the amplifier.

Fixes:

- Reposition the speaker to reduce proximity to walls or corners.
- Use acoustic treatments such as bass traps.
- Adjust the amplifier's crossover to match the speaker's frequency response.

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