

AUDILE PROVIDES FUNKTION ONE FOR DANCE HAVEN AREA 51

February saw the launch of a new dance music mecca in Manchester, Area 51. The club is opposite Deansgate Locks in the city centre, on the site of the former Emporia nightclub, and has undergone a complete new refit, new ideas and a fresh brand identity.

The club has secured the only late clubbing licence in Manchester meaning from 1.30am – 9am on a Saturday, the club will pump out the best in underground dance music, with the likes of TV Rock, Wally Lopez and Danny Freakazoid booked for April. Tony Ratcliffe, from new owners Koochi, asserts: "We wanted to give something different to Manchester that was more European and like London." With futuristic sounds and dancing to the early hours at the forefront of the club's agenda, it would no doubt attract the more discerning clubber, so the club had to have a top notch sound system to boot.

Koochi turned to local event production company Audile, who have secured a reputation in the dance music world for supplying Funktion-One systems at events like Gatecrasher, Godskitchen, Tidy, Southport Soul Weekender and The Warehouse Project. With the brief to provide a Funktion-One system that would be the best in Manchester, and ensure both the techno and house rooms were pumping all night, Audile's Rob Ashworth based the systems around Resolution-4, Resolution-1 and F-221 speakers.

The three-day fitout saw four Res-4 skeletal mid/hi speakers hung in the corners of the main techno room. Rob explained: "The mid and hi drivers are exposed with only the low driver boxed, which saves both weight and cost, and also looks rather cool. Due to the low ceilings we had to fly the speakers horizontally, and the rotatable horns on the Res 4s make them perfect for this application."

Providing the system's mighty bottom end are two F-221 subs, built into the DJ booth to save space and provide a clean aesthetic. "The 221s are incredible



subs," says Rob. "They're unbelievably quick and tight across their full operating range, with rock-solid definition down to the lowest frequencies. Very musical too, which isn't something that can be said of most subs. And the output from just two boxes is stunning – easily the equivalent of four double-18 boxes."

The rest of the system comprises two Res-1 DJ monitors and four F-81 fill speakers in the side bar and seating alcoves, powered by MC-2 amplification and XTA drive, with a Pioneer DJM-800 and three CDJ-1000s in the booth. The second room features a similar system, but with smaller Res-1 speakers flown in the corners in place of the Res-4s.

On the lighting side, the mood of the seating areas is enhanced with UltraLED's colour-changing LED ropelight, fitted into the alcoves above the seating booths and around the bar in the second room, to provide soft, subtle light. Clay Paky Miniscan HPE scans, I-Pix Satellite LED fixtures, Martin Atomic strobes and Thomas 4-lite Molephay blinders dominate the lighting rigs on the dancefloors. Main room lights



are controlled by an Avolites Azure console and an Anytronics dimmer pack, whilst the lighting in the second room is managed by a Pulsar Masterpiece Replay controller and Outstation remote control.
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