

Product Profiles



Bag End Q10X-D 4x10

By Scott Malandrone

Attention connoisseurs of hi-fi bas tone: Bag End's Q10X-D 4x10 is right up your alley. With its silky highs and smooth bottom, this enclosure is great for clean chords and crispy solo work. It shouldn't surprise you, then, that the cabinet's co-designer is 6-string wizard

John Patitucci. "There are several 4x10s on the market," says Patitucci, "but the Q10X-D has a more even response than any other 4x10s being built. In fact, it's the best bass box I've ever used." Bag End is known throughout the music industry for its super-tough enclosures and innovative ELF (Extended Low Frequency) system, which we reviewed in December '93. Here's a peek at the enclosure that was just a bit to pricey to make it into our November '95 Shoot out of ten 4x10s under \$1,000.

The Q10X-D isn't a dime-a-dozen 4x10. The unit's smaller-

yet-taller dimensions are highlighted by a "Deep Red" carpet covering and a black-vinyl-coated steel-mesh grille. While most 4x10s use four speakers and a separate high frequency bullet tweeter, the Q10X-D has three Bag End cast-frame 10s and a special coaxial driver in the upper right hand corner of the cabinet. This coaxial speaker incorporates a Bag End E-10X low-frequency driver and a E-550 titanium high-frequency tweeter in one unit. (See photo, page 67.) The speakers are housed in a tough cabinet constructed of heavy seven-ply poplar. We were puzzled, though, by a mysterious screw hole in the top rear corner of our tester. (Bag End's Jim Wischmeyer informs us that our tester cabinet was shipped from "Demo Land," which is a stock of "cosmetic seconds and rep samples.")

One reason this enclosure is smaller than most competitive units is that its speaker are arranged in a slightly askew pattern to reduce the width of the cab. This tighter array doesn't sound smaller, though, and the box disperses sound across a medium-size room very well. To help beef up the tone, Bag End cuts four 3" ports in the rear of the enclosure, one over the rear of each speaker.

Inside, there's a passive CX-1 crossover screwed to the bottom of the cabinet. Although the crossover doesn't have a high-frequency attenuator, we didn't seem to miss it: the sound is well balanced, with the TREBLE/PRESENCE knobs serving as overall brightness controls. To keep stray frequencies in check, 1" acoustical bating lines all internal surfaces, with a wooden baffle separating the coaxial speaker from the rest of the drivers.

The power handling of the box is impressive-it can cope with large bursts of bridged-mono power with only minimal distortion. We also loved the precision of the coaxial driver; it produces some of the smoothest high of any hi-fi enclosure on the market. But like most

BAG END Q10X-D

Made in: U.S.A.

Price: \$1,038

Warranty: Six-year limited

Type: Rear ported

Power rating: 800 watts RMS above 100Hz; 8Ω

Frequency Response: -3dB @ 80Hz-18kHz

Crossover frequency: 3.7kHz

Sensitivity: 103dB SL @ 1W1M

Speakers: Three 200-watt Bag End E-10 10s; one 200-watt Bag End E-10X coaxial 10 with one 100-watt Bag End E-550 titanium high-frequency driver

Rear panel: Two ¼" parallel-input jacks, one banana jack, two parallel-input Neutrik Speakon jacks

Dimensions: 22" x 27" x 12"

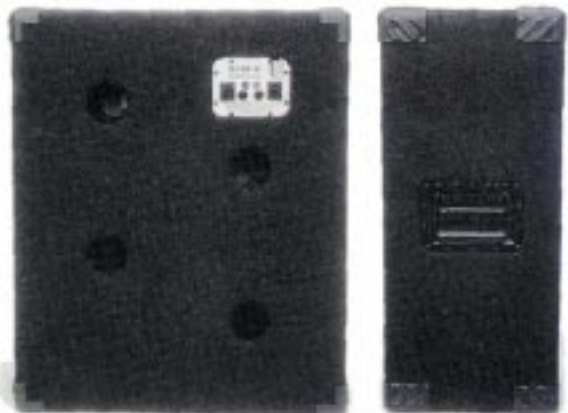
Box material: Seven-ply ¾" solid core poplar

Weight: 92lbs

enclosures that spotlight to

pend, it does requires low-mid tweaking to bring out the punch. We found this especially true when we put the cabinet side-by-side with a Marshall half stack; the Q10X-D put up a good fight, but without some serious EQing, the powerful distortion of the Marshall all but buried the enclosure's sweet sound. (Playing any cabinet by itself can be deceptive, as the cloudy midrange of a distorted guitar and low end of a kick drum can kill a perfect solo-bass sound in a hurry. Keep this in mind when auditioning equipment in a music store.)

We're concerned, though, by the unit's low-end response. Since the cabinet puts out virtually no energy below 60 Hz (you can sweep from 30Hz-60Hz on a parametric EQ cranked by +15dB and hear very little boost), The E string sounds a bit compressed. This problem is enhanced when you play a 5-string which extends down to 30 Hz; the B string on our Modulus SweetSpot Custom SPi didn't move much air. ("We intentionally chose to limit the low-frequency output of the cabinet to improve the upper range," says Wischmeyer.



Since the enclosure is only a foot deep, the backside of the Q10X-D incorporates four 3" ports-one behind the magnet of each speaker-for enhanced low-end response.



The E-550 titanium compression high-frequency driver module screws into the rear of the E-10X low frequency driver.

“It also makes the cabinet more portable, as the Q10X-D is the smallest 4x10 on the market.”) If you play loud rock or metal, you may want to consider adding a 15 to beef up the cab’s lean tone. (Bag End does offer several 15 and 18 equipped enclosures.) However, if you play mostly in the upper registers, or if clarity is of utmost importance, you’ll probably find that the Q10X-D performs exceptionally well by itself.



Input options galore: A rear-mounted jack panel houses two parallel 1/4” jacks, two parallel Neutrik Speakon connectors, and one banana-jack input.

Weight is another area of concern. At nearly 100 pounds, the Q10X-D isn’t the most portable cabinet, even considering its huggable size. (Carrying it by yourself for more than 20’ can be a real test of one’s stamina.) Bag End obviously took portability into consideration by cutting the dimensions of the enclosure, but the sheer weight of the cabinet dilutes the company’s otherwise commendable efforts. And since it’s casterless, you’ll have to recruit one of your fellow musicians (or even your drummer, who’s



The askew speakers arrangement reduces the width of the cabinet. Note the red dust cap of the coaxial driver.

usually good at grunt work) to help you move it around. (Bag End is considering adding casters on future versions.)

The enclosure’s niche? I’d steer the Q10X-D toward bassist looking to add more brilliance and cutting power to their sound. It’s a solid cabinet that reproduces the attack of active electronics and the sizzle of BRIGHT switches very well. Toss in Bag End’s six year warranty-and the fact that you can put it in the back seat of your car-and you’ve

Bag End Q10X-D 4x10
List price: \$1,038

	1	2	3	4	5
Construction:	■	■	■	■	■
Components:	■	■	■	■	■
Portability:	■	■			
Sound:	■	■	■	■	■
Value:	■	■	■	■	■

Bottom Line: A lean-sounding enclosure with lots of high-end finesse.

got a well-rounded package that won’t end up at your local used-equipment emporium within a week.

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