
Subject: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 23:13:39 GMT
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Can you gat away with crossing them at 300hz?

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?
Posted by [GM](#) on Wed, 09 Nov 2005 01:31:08 GMT
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Greets!Sure, you can load it down to around 25 Hz if the horn's big enough, so will work fine in one adequately sized for just about any XO point. GM

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?
Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Wed, 09 Nov 2005 10:35:56 GMT
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Minimum recommended crossover frequency is 500hz per Altec.Ron

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 09 Nov 2005 17:19:49 GMT
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Well Ron; thats what I always thought. I have heard there might be some exceptions to that rule; so thats why I asked.Why should they not be able to cross at 300 hz. Thats what I need to know. Then some posts on the ALtec Users Site seem to favor the lower xover point soundwise.

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?
Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Wed, 09 Nov 2005 21:47:50 GMT
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I can only say that you seriously derate the power handling of the driver and it will end up being destroyed if you push too much at too low a frequency.I have run some compression drivers at

much below their rated frequency, but at a fraction of their power rating. Let me put it this way, a 288 is approx 15 watt rated, at 250 hz I would guess your max might be between 3 and 5 watts before ending the life of the diaphragm. If you need to use a horn lower than the compression drivers you have available, why not use a cone driver in a horn!!!! Just my 2 cents worth, how lucky do you feel? I pay good money for my Great Plains 399 drivers (288-8K clones), I can't afford to replace diaphragms just for an experiment. Sorry to be a spoil-sport! Ron

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 01:26:12 GMT

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No problem; another piece of info to make responsible decisions with.

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?

Posted by [GM](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 01:38:52 GMT

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Greetings! OK then, why did Altec recommend the 288, etc., drivers with a 300 Hz 2nd order XO on their 300 Hz multicell and sectoral horn series, not to mention the 31 and 329 series they carried over from W.E. (the '3' denoting 300 Hz), without derating them? GM

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?

Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 11:00:20 GMT

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Altec made some compression drivers that were made for "full-range" public address systems. The drivers have phenolic diaphragms and are made more durable to handle the lower frequencies. These are not considered "audio-grade" but were designed to be used in areas where speech reproduction was required to cover a large area. I'm not trying to rain on anyone's parade, just saying that using a Altec 288 below 500hz was not what they were designed for. Also the many lower frequency horns (1003B/8003B/etc) were actually used at 500hz crossover unless a different driver than the 288 were used. Ron

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?

Posted by [GM](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 16:36:57 GMT

Greetings! Understood, and what you say is true as far as it goes, but you've come to an erroneous conclusion based on insufficient information. If you do the research on the models I listed you'll find that Altec listed the 288/300 Hz combo on these horns and if you study compression driver design and do some PWT measurements you'll see why they will perform at rated power at XO points much lower than 300 Hz IF the horn lens is designed to support it. Consider that the 'granddaddy' of these drivers is the 1" W.E. 555, which when loaded with the 15A lens has a full power BW of 100-5 kHz, and if someone wanted to make an even bigger lens it could be lowered considerably. GM

Subject: Re: Say GM what do you think about Altec 288 drivers?

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 11 Nov 2005 13:10:40 GMT

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Thanks Guys; this is good and usefull information.
