

Proel PA Range

Trevor Cronin takes a shine to some Smart Italians.

Proel is a division of a large Italian manufacturing conglomerate. I must admit that I am quite a fan of many things made in this part of the world. Fantastic food and drink, clothes, cars and motorcycles and some of the most attractive and passionate people I have ever met. [Steady on Tiger – CH.] They have always shown great design flair and, in more recent years, much improved quality control. In the world of audio equipment, manufacturers like RCF and B&C make some of the most favoured speaker components available on the market.

Proel's total product range is extensive, manufacturing keyboard, mixer, and speaker stands, microphone and music stands and 19-inch rack accessories. There is a huge range of cables, including multicores, digital audio, speaker, video and a large range of adapters. On the electronics front there is a range of music instrument accessories, power conditioners, UPS, lighting controllers and power amplifiers.

New to Australia is the company's range of speaker enclosures. Three lines of speaker product are offered, the budget Smart series 'SMT', the more professional Templar 'TPR' and the Templar flying system 'TFL' (no, it doesn't transport itself to gigs via on-board sat nav!).

How Clever is Smart?

The Smart series consists of seven speakers suitable for most applications. The main system features four trapezoidal cabinet varieties ranging from the SMT-10 (10-inch and horn compact unit), to the large SMT-153 three-way unit featuring a 15-inch

driver for the lows, a eight-inch unit for mids and a HF horn. In-between these there are the SMT-12 and -15 models. For extra bass there is the SMT-15S 15-inch driver sub bass unit.

Of course, these boxes can also be used for stage monitoring duties but the SMT-10M and SMT-12M units are Proel's dedicated floor monitors in this range. All these speakers are available as active self-powered units with an internal amplifier, or as passive designs with an internal crossover for external powering. All the cabinets look great, and are finished in an attractive car-friendly grey fine-fibre anthracite carpet.

Now, where's m'screwdriver, and well see how these boxes tick! On the front you have a fairly kickproof looking metal grille. There's metal carry handles and a die-cast aluminium flange for stand mounting. Robust looking rubber feet are attached for stacking, but there's no provision for legal flying of this model. The cabinets are made from 'high-grade low resonant impact wood', which on inspection translates to a finer version of 'good ol' chipboard. The Inputs on the passive versions are two (one for linking) high quality Speakon SPK4MP connectors. The powered versions have a TRS (stereo) jack as well as an XLR connector for input. To link units you will need a TRS to XLR cable. There is a large heat sink to dissipate heat from the amp, below this is the IEC power connector (non-locking), the main power fuse, input earth lift button and the volume control. A LED will flash on momentarily upon power-up, shows signal present and will also glow red to let you know when you are pushing in too much input level. All units are equipped with a full electronic protection circuitry for the high frequency drivers. The powered versions' amplifier has a toroidal transformer, features MOSFET technology and a dual-feed supply for

Proel Pricing

Smart-10A Proel Smart 10/120W Active Cab: \$969

Smart-12A Proel Smart 12/160W Active Cab: \$1,069

TPR -12SA Proel Smart
12/160W Active Sub:
\$1,069

Smart-15A Proel Smart
15/320W Active Cab:
\$1,349

Smart-15SA Proel Smart
15/320W Active Sub:
\$1,369

Smart-153A Proel Smart
15/320W Active 3-Way
Cab: \$1,549

Smart-10MA Proel
Smart 2-way 10" Active
Monitor: \$999

Smart-12MA Proel
Smart 2-way 12" Active
Monitor: \$1,169

TPR-8A Proel Templar
8/2-way Active Cab:
\$1,295

TPR -10A Proel Templar



high reliability and high power output. RF immunity is also taken care of – output is fed into a passive crossover. Included is a subsonic filter to prevent damage by over excursion of the low frequency units and a built-in compressor/limiter is also included for speaker protection.

The speakers' internals are quite light in weight and look well made, in fact, these units are surprisingly well made for speakers in this price range. Attention to small details such as stapling in the back of the speaker nuts to prevent them falling inside the box when servicing is a nice touch!

At a Uni show I used the 12+horn wedge for monitors on a acoustic set with Sony recording artist Andrew Desilva. The monitor sounded great, very little EQ was required to produce a really nice loud vocal and acoustic guitar sound, with little risk of feedback. Considering the unit's rated power, the output level was significant – clean sounding with a bit of brightness in the top-end. Andrew and I were both very happy to use (and carry) this lightweight unit. With power ratings from 120W to 600W AES standard and a maximum SPL from 115dB to 126dB, the other units in the range also performed really well.

Nights Templar

The Templars are the more professional range of speakers, with higher spec components and a wider range of models. Moreover, the Templar TFL comes with professional flying hardware.

The Templar range starts with a neat little TPR-8 (eight-inch diameter speaker and one-inch horn unit) and goes up to the big self-powered TPR-18SP 18-inch band-pass sub bass speaker with a max SPL of 126dB/1200W (peak).

The trapezoidal cabinets are built from more expensive reinforced birch plywood and MDF. From top to bottom this range uses more expensive components and has more output level than the 'Smart' series. All full-range units have a metal grille painted silver. The boxes are finished in three layers of tough-textured grey paint. These speakers are eye-catching and wouldn't look out of place in a sci-fi film!

The full-range cabinets all feature a one-inch compression driver with a spherical waveguide horn that aim to offer uniform dispersion at all frequencies. The power amp has the same external layout as the Smart series. The sub bass units have a clever left and right link through and crossover system, so you don't need to use an external crossover. The way it works is the unit accepts a stereo program signal which is sent as a summed mono signal into the internal amp input while a stereo output with 125Hz high pass filtering is available to feed the inputs of the full range units. When using multiple subs the left input is used and the right input then becomes a link output. For simplicity, all signal connections on the sub bass speakers use TRS jacks.

I used the smaller TPR-10A cabinet as a keyboard monitor speaker with Damien Smith from R&B act 'KPS Jam' at a club show. The unit at 13kg is incredibly lightweight but produced a very loud volume (a SPL of 120dB). Damien really liked the sound the unit produced – as did I. The other speakers in the range also performed well, I particularly liked the little TPR-12SA 12-inch active sub. All up, this is a large product range that offers good sound from good designs at a fair price. The wide range means you can tailor your system to only include cabinets that pack the features you require. Luckily the Aussie dollar has remained fairly stable against the

Indian Lira, so you're not paying a 'crap dollar' premium. Bear in mind also that Proel can also supply a complete line of optional accessories, like stands, adjustable wall arms and speaker cables.

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