ULTRA-COMPACT MULTI-CELLULAR LOUDSPEAKER ARRAY
With the introduction of the award-winning MLA® and MLA Compact™ systems, Martin Audio turned the line array world on its head. Different in concept to line array, MLA’s combination of individually driven cells and automated numerical optimisation delivers much more consistent sound across the audience, puts an end to trial-and-error tuning sessions and reduces sound spill – both on stage and beyond the audience boundary.

Now, the ultra-compact MLA Mini™ brings revolutionary MLA cellular technology to an exceptionally wide range of smaller-scale portable and installed sound applications. Its very small footprint and light weight makes it the system of choice for smaller venues which require the ultimate in fidelity, consistency and control.
With conventional line arrays, the aim is to produce coherent wavefronts as they exit the speaker grilles – with the user having limited control over what actually arrives on the audience floor.

MLA cellular technology takes the reverse approach. The user specifies exactly what SPL and frequency response is required at various points throughout the venue and intelligent software automatically determines the array configuration and controls each individual cell in the array to produce that result. With independent control of every cell in the array, MLA systems are not constrained by the 3dB decrease in SPL with doubling of distance associated with conventional line arrays. Instead, the frequency response and SPL’s at the rear seats closely track the front rows.

With every cell under software control, ‘Hard-avoid’ areas, such as onstage, the ceiling and the venue perimeter can also be programmed in to reduce sound spill, and vertical coverage can be fine-tuned electronically in-situ without the need to re-rig the array.
Scalable and versatile, MLA Mini is ideal for portable sound rental, small-to-medium ballroom, theatre and HoW applications and is the natural choice as an infill for MLA Compact systems. Its ultra-compact size understates its output capabilities – a 12-box array will throw beyond 35 metres (115ft) and deliver live music in venues of 750-1000 people.

MLA Mini is designed as a complete system, with a companion MSX mini-sub power plant which houses the amplification and DSP to power and control itself and up to 4 MLA Mini enclosures. Up to 16 MLA Minis can be flown in an array and powered by 4 ground-stacked MSX’s. Alternatively, 12 MLA Minis can be flown below 3 MSX’s in the same array. Since MLA Mini is a 2-way system, a 12-box array has a total of 12 HF cells and 12 LF cells, each individually powered to provide consistent coverage.

Arrays and MSX’s can be remotely controlled from a laptop or wireless tablet running VU-NET™ control software with its intuitive graphical interface. In the simplest configuration, 4 MLA Minis can be pole-mounted above the MSX as a plug-and-play system using onboard presets instead of computer control.
MLA MINI
FEATURES AND BENEFITS

FEATURES
- Numerically optimised, ultra-compact loudspeaker system
- Cellular array format with amplification, multi-cellular DSP and digital networking housed in companion sub-bass
- Dedicated Class D amplifiers for individual powering of individual cells
- Industry leading DISPLAY 2.1™ intelligent software interacts with DSP for highly accurate array optimisation
- Vertical coverage can be fine-tuned electronically to cope with changing environmental conditions and last minute changes in rigging height. “Hard-avoid” areas, such as on-stage, ceilings and site perimeter, can be programmed in
- Switched mode power supplies with PFC (Power Factor Correction) and global mains voltage operation
- Two-way design delivers LF/HF peak SPL’s of 130/132dB @ 1m from a single, ultra-compact enclosure
- Fast, integral flying system for suspension of up to 16 MLA Mini or 12 MLA Mini + 3 MSX enclosures
- True 100° (-6dB) horizontal constant directivity. Consistent and usable out to 125° (-10dB)
- 76Hz-18kHz ± 3dB frequency response

BENEFITS
- Automatic, intelligent configuration and numerical optimisation eliminates trial-and-error tuning sessions
- Desired house-curve and precise audience coverage achieved ‘straight out of the box’
- Artistic changes to balance at the mix position (or elsewhere) translate directly and accurately throughout the audience
- “Greener”, more efficient audio power via PFC (Power Factor Correction)
- Programmable leakage parameter to reduce sound spill

APPLICATIONS
- Small-to-medium scale theatres
- Small-to-medium live music venues
- Corporate AV events
- Fixed installations in concert halls, ballrooms and HoW
- Side-fill for MLA Compact systems
MLA MINI
INNOVATIVE ACOUSTIC DESIGN

Each MLA Mini enclosure houses 2 x 6.5” (165mm)/2” (50mm) voice coil LF drivers and a vertical column of 3 x 1.4” (35mm) aluminium dome HF drivers on a 100° horizontal dispersion horn. The LF drivers are located in the side walls of the horn. In a system using conventional cone drivers, this arrangement would introduce cavities into the horn walls which would degrade the horizontal dispersion characteristics. MLA Mini adopts an ingenious solution – each LF driver has a solid moulded diaphragm and low-diffraction surround which closely follows the contours of the horn wall.

Each LF driver also features a demodulation ring in the neodymium motor system to minimise distortion and maximise mid-band sensitivity, and the entire magnet structure is retained within the aluminum chassis for good thermal conduction.

In the triple-HF section, the voice coil of each HF driver is thermally coupled to its neodymium motor assembly and aluminium heatsink. An elastomer surround and low compression ratio combine to achieve low distortion, and a copper pole sleeve maximises HF efficiency. Each individual HF wavefront is precisely coupled to the horn throat via a short waveguide, for exemplary 100° horizontal constant-directivity coverage.
Amplification, networking and DSP are all housed in MLA Mini’s companion MSX power plant, which includes 9 channels of Class D amplification – 1 channel for itself, and 8 channels to provide cellular drive of up to 4 bi-amped MLA Mini enclosures. Crossover, delay and EQ functions are implemented by a combination of IIR and FIR filters.

MLA Mini arrays and MSX’s can be remotely controlled over the U-NET™ network from a laptop or wireless tablet running VU-NET control software. Small-scale systems – such as the configuration of 4 x MLA Minis and 1 x MSX – can be set up to plug-and-play without external control, with onboard presets recalled by a rear panel selector switch.

The MSX is the same width as the MLA Mini and can be integrated into flown arrays or ground-stacked separately. It features a 15” (380mm)/4” (100mm) voice coil, long-exursion driver reflex-loaded in a very compact enclosure.

For complete installation versatility, the power plant module itself can be rack-mounted and its sub-bass amplifier channel used to power either an MSX or an alternative Martin Audio 4 Ohm passive subwoofer. For ultimate sub-bass performance, the MLA Mini/MSX combination can be used with the powered DSX subwoofer.
DISPLAY 2.1
AUTOMATED CONTROL SOFTWARE

DISPLAY 2.1 is the brain of MLA Mini. Based on a highly accurate acoustic model of array behaviour, it gives a very accurate prediction of the direct sound produced over the audience as well as areas where sound is to be reduced. Its numerical optimisation process eliminates lengthy trial-and-error tuning sessions – an MLA Mini system achieves the required audience coverage straight out of the box.

DISPLAY 2.1 works from an audience perspective. Starting with a user-specified SPL and response over the audience floor, it automatically determines the array configuration that will give the required result. It takes the guesswork out of array design and deployment – generating highly accurate spot frequency responses and comprehensive rigging information, including mechanical load safety analysis. The software interacts with onboard DSP in the MSX to deliver consistent sound throughout the venue. It calculates the filter parameters for the LF and HF cells within each MLA Mini enclosure and uploads them via the U-NET digital network.

It can also fine-tune the vertical coverage after rigging without the need to reposition the array or change the inter-cabinet splay angles.

Deliver consistent sound throughout the venue
MLA Mini is portable, easy to rig and fulfils a wide variety of applications. Its integral rigging system combines speed with precision. Up to 16 MLA Mini enclosures or 12 MLA Minis + 3 MSX’s can be suspended via the single/two-point-lift flying frame – with a separate transition frame used to fly the MLA Minis beneath the MSX’s. The flying frame can also be used to ground stack up to 6 MLA Mini enclosures.

Inter-cabinet connections utilise quick-release pins, with all loads being borne by the integral metalwork. DISPLAY 2.1 determines the safe limits and tilt angles of a specific array – including BGV C1 safety calculations. For small venues and infill applications, up to 4 MLA Minis can be pole-mounted above an MSX and aimed by means of an optional bracket assembly with precisely adjustable tilt angle. The same bracket can also be used to suspend 4 MLA Minis from a truss.

An optional flight case enables 4 MLA Mini enclosures to be transported face-down and the rear splay angles set whilst in the flight case prior to lifting. The MSX has a removable wheelboard option, and a protective transit cover is also available.
MLA MINI
SPECIFICATIONS AND DIMENSIONS

Acoustical

TYPE
Two-way cellular-drive, array element, driven from MSX mini-subwoofer power plant

FREQUENCY RESPONSE (1)
76Hz-18kHz ± 3dB
-10dB @ 63Hz

MAXIMUM SPL @ 1m
1 x MLA Mini
LF: 127dB continuous, 130dB peak (3)
HF: 122dB continuous, 132dB peak (3)

4 x MLA Mini
LF: 139dB continuous, 142dB peak (3)
HF: 132dB continuous, 142dB peak (3)

Drivers
LF
2 x 6.5” (165mm) contoured-diaphragm/2” (50mm) edge-wound CCAW voice coil, neodymium magnet drivers, reflex loaded

HF
3 x 1.4” (35mm) aluminium dome/1.4” (35mm) voice coil, neodymium magnet compression drivers on constant-directivity waveguide

Rated Power (2)
LF
300W AES, 1200W peak
HF
90W AES, 360W peak

Dispersion
(-6dB)
100° horizontal
(-10dB)
125° horizontal
10° vertical

Crossover Frequency
1.2kHz
Vanishing Point™ FIR filter

Audio input
CONNECTORS
NL4 input, connects to MSX power plant
LF 1+, 1-, HF 2+, 2-

General
ENCLOSURE
Vertical trapezoid with 5° wall angle. Skeletal steel braced, ribbed ABS structural foam construction

FINISH
Textured black paint

PROTECTIVE GRILLE
Black HEX perforated steel, Declon™ backed

FITTINGS
Integral flyware for suspension of up to 16 MLA Mini
Ergonomic handles on each side

IP RATING
IP 25

DIMENSIONS
(W) 500mm x (H) 210mm x (D) 377mm (including flyware)
(W) 19.7in x (H) 8.3in x (D) 14.8in (including flyware)

WEIGHT
13.8kg (30.4lbs)

Notes
(1) Measured on-axis on ground plane (3w space) at 2 metres, then referred to 1 metre.
(2) AES Standard ANSI S4.26-1984
(3) Calculated in half-space at 1 metre.
**MSX SPECIFICATIONS AND DIMENSIONS**

**Acoustical**
- **TYPE**: 15" reflex loaded subwoofer
- **FREQUENCY RESPONSE (1)**: 50Hz-150Hz ± 3dB
- **MAXIMUM SPL @ 1m**: 135dB continuous, 136dB peak (3)
- **Driver**: 1 x 15" (380mm/4" (100mm) voice coil, ultra-long excursion, high efficiency ferrite magnet

**Rated Power (2)**: 800W AES, 3200W peak

**MSX Dispersion**
- Omnidirectional. Cardioid arrays possible, using multiple MSX enclosures

**Audio input**
- **CONNECTORS**: Female XLR input, male XLR link output
- **ANALOGUE INPUT IMPEDANCE**: 20kΩ balanced to ground
- **MAXIMUM ANALOGUE INPUT LEVEL**: 6.15Vrms (+18dBu), over voltage protected
- **AES/EBU IMPEDANCE**: 110 Ohms balanced, receive and transmit termination

**Internal Processing**
- Multi-channel DSP, programmable via network
- 16 PEQ/shelving filters per channel
- Up to 48dB/Oct HPF and LPF
- FIR filtering on MLA Mini channels
- Up to 1 second of delay
- Limiters with amplifier output current monitoring

**Network**
- **CONNECTORS**: IP68 rated 8-way, quick-release type
- **PROTOCOL**: U-NET

**Amplifier Module**
- **TYPE**: 9 channel switch-mode, class D
- **PEAK OUTPUT POWER**: 7000W total
- **700W MLA Mini LF x 4**
- **700W MLA Mini HF x 4**
- **CONNECTORS**: 2 x NL8 outputs to MLA Mini x 4
- **AVERAGE EFFICIENCY**: 85%
- **COOLING**: 2 x temperature controlled internal fans
- 1 x low-speed internal blower
- 2 x temperature controlled external fans
- **MAXIMUM AMBIENT TEMPERATURE**: 45°C (113°F) for full output

**Power Supply**
- **TYPE**: Switch mode, fixed frequency with PFC
- **AC INPUT OPERATING RANGE**: 100 – 240V ~ AC, 50 – 60Hz
- **POWER FACTOR**: > 0.95
- **NOMINAL POWER CONSUMPTION**: 900W
- **MAINS CONNECTOR**: Neutrik® Powercon True1

**General**
- **ENCLOSURE**: Extensively braced multi-laminate birch-ply
- **FINISH**: Textured black PU coating
- **PROTECTIVE GRILLE**: Black HEX perforated steel

**FITTINGS**
- Two skids on base, with mating channels on top
- M20 top-mounted thread plate for MLA Mini pole
- Integral flyware for suspension of up to 4 MSX
- Large bar handle on each side
- Two front-mounted latch plates for wheelchair
- Optional weather protection cowl

**IP RATING**: Indoor (without weather protection cowl)
- **IP 25 (with weather protection cowl)**

**DIMENSIONS**
- (W) 500mm x (H) 510mm x (D) 575mm (675mm with vent flap open)
- (W) 19.7in x (H) 20.1in x (D) 22.6in (26.6in)

**WEIGHT**
- 58kg (128lbs)
- 65kg (143lbs) inc wheelboard