

Ashton Traveller 150 Portable PA

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reviewed by Keith Munro



Portability and mobility seem to be the deciding factors in vocal PA systems these days and Ashton's version, the Traveller 150 is no exception. If you are a solo performer or small band, the Traveller 150 could provide you with a very cost effective and simple means to get your voice heard, whether live or in rehearsal. There are a few products like this on the market and as far as applications and uses go the Ashton is definitely a contender as you "traveller rig".

Features

The Traveller 150 pack gives you access to a four-channel mixer, two 10-inch speakers and speaker cables, a dynamic microphone as well as an XLR-XLR microphone cable so there is no need to go out and extra little bits and pieces like cables. Built in is a 150 watt amplifier to drive your vocals and acoustic guitar or even your backing tracks and the whole system folds away into a very neat, compact moulded plastic case, making lugging from gig to gig a dream. The speakers consist of a 10 inch woofer and a piezo horn and come complete with their own speaker stands so once again when you purchase the Traveller 150, there is no need to purchase those additional extras which can add up to being a substantial amount financially. Volumes are substantial enough for rehearsal situations as well and the tonal quality of the speakers is quite good.

The Mixer

The Traveller 150 provides the user with a very simple mixer consisting of three mono channels with combo input jacks and one balanced XLR/stereo left and right jack input. There is also an additional RCA input channel for using a CD or MD player, perfect for those performers using CD backing tracks. There is also a Tape Out RCA connection so you can easily record your performances if you wish once again great for small bands to record your demo at rehearsal. The mixer comes complete with a 5-band graphic EQ so you can adjust the sound of your mix or you can remove frequencies that may feedback giving you a stable and powerful amplified signal. If you want to flavour your vocals there is also a digital effects panel giving you access to a list of effects including reverbs and delays. The on board effects are a useful feature for those artists looking to flavour their vocals a little. You can also opt to run the mixer in stereo or mono mode.

The Channel Strip

Each channel features a fader, reverb control and a two-band EQ control with bass and treble adjustment parameters allowing you to cut or boost the particular set frequency by 12dB. The EQ section allows for enough scope to tailor it to your own voice or to get that little extra bite from your acoustic guitar. It is very basic to operate so don't fear if you have never used any product like this before, you will not have a problem. The faders are quite smooth and have a reasonable travel allowing you to get a good balance between the channels.

Conclusion

This unit is easy enough to assemble and really does save you time due to its compact and portable nature. Especially suited to those artists who regularly perform in small clubs and RSLs, the Ashton Traveller 150 is lightweight and very sturdy. Don't expect this system to deliver to a packed festival hall or anything, as really it is only suited for small venues or solo performers, but it will provide adequate volume and quality of sound for any small jazz gig or even as an announcers system for small corporate shows. Built rugged you will not have to fear it being damaged, as the Traveller is designed tough enough to withstand being loaded and lugged in and out of the back of the tour van no problems at all. A great entry-level system for band rehearsals and smaller, compact shows.

RRP\$995

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