

# QSC K.2

## LIGHT, BRIGHT, LOUD!

By Jason Allen



**Q**SC's original K Series took a big chunk of the active speaker market with its power, light weight, performance, and price tag. Believe it or not, the original K Series was developed a decade ago, before the existence of the iPhone, so it was more than time for a refresh. Enter K.2.

There's a comforting familiarity between K and K.2 – same line-up (an 8", a 10" and a 12"), similar power (but more efficient), same weight (though the 12 is 900 grams lighter), and similar voicing. What QSC have changed is the functionality and flexibility. The new DSP has crossover, delay and EQ, plus five user scenes. The second combo jack can take a Hi-Z input, making the K.2s a credible replacement for an instrument amp. There's now a 3.5mm jack input that sums to mono, and level control for all inputs.

The back panel is where the differences are starkest. There's now an LCD panel that you control with a rotary encoder and two buttons. All the DSP functions, input type selection, saving, and loading are done via the screen. It's straightforward and informative, giving you all the info you need on the state of the box on-screen.

There are eight EQ/DSP presets for you to select; Default (flat), Live (more mids), Live Bright (more high end), Dance (low-end extension) Stage Monitor 1 and 2, (mic and instrument, respectively), Acoustic Guitar/Vox (vocal channel one, guitar channel 2), Bass Amp, Handheld

Mic, Headworn Mic, and Studio Monitor (bass extension, tops evened out). Some of these presets are useful, but I found some like Stage Monitor 1 and Handheld Mic to be overly aggressive. Surprisingly, when used as a guitar and bass amp, the K10.2 we had on test performed admirably, something I can honestly say I've ever heard an active PA speaker do before.

Other DSP features include a crossover for use with subs, which can be set to no sub, 80 Hz, 100 Hz or 125 Hz. There's up to 100ms of delay available, which can be read in metres. The EQ is really useful – there's a hi and lo shelf, and two completely adjustable bands of parametric. The EQ is reductive only, which gives you some peace-of-mind if you're hiring it out and worried about someone using it like a gain stage. If you'd like even less to worry about, you can buy an optional blank plate and lock everyone out of the settings.

Connectivity is now via the two aforementioned combo jacks and 3.5mm jack. Each combo jack has a male XLR pass-through, and there's a summed output of all three channels on another male XLR. Under the hood, there's 1800W driving the woofer and 225W driving the tweeter. All three models have a 55 degree wedge profile, which the 8" didn't have in generation one. There are two handles, one top and one side, which

#### Brand:

QSC

**Model:** K10.2

#### Pricing:

\$1,499 inc GST

(K8.2 \$1,399,

K12.2 \$1,699)

#### Product Info:

[www.qsc.com](http://www.qsc.com)

#### Distributor:

[tag.com.au](http://tag.com.au)

usually infuriates me, but the K10.2 is so light it really makes no difference.

All models have coaxial tweeters, and each model has different dispersion courtesy of QSC's 'Directivity Matched Transition', which optimises dispersion according to crossover frequency, with the aim of making the coverage of the woofer and tweeter as identical as possible. This means the 8" is 105 degrees, the 10" 90 degrees and the 12" 75 degrees wide.

If you're looking to install, there are optional yokes, or you can get to the M10 eyebolts on the top and hang them. The K.2s now have two pole mounts - one straight, the other gives you 7.5 degrees downward. The old pole mount adapter system the K's used to give you a downward angle, apart from being fiddly, shifted the centre-of-gravity too far.

Sonically, the K10.2 we had on test sounds much like the original K, but with improved naturalness in the bass. Overall, they feel much louder, though on paper, they're only producing 1 dB more SPL. Their clarity is better, particularly at higher volumes, where the limiter, instead of turning your signal into a nasty crunch, barely colours the sound at all. They are much less fatiguing as a result. Set to flat, the K10.2 is an honest speaker, providing great detail in the mids, and more level than seems possible for a humble 10".

With a six year warranty, optional bags, a locking IEC cable, and a cloth behind the speaker grille for a cleaner look, the K.2s look set to become a reliable, high-quality workhorse for the entire industry. They're easy to lift and transport, and the sonic results are disproportionately good for this price-point.



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