



INSOMNIAC IS WIDE AWAKE WITH FUNKTION ONE'S BURNING MAN ART CAR

A core component of Nevada's Burning Man festival (billed as a temporary community based on radical self expression) is its unique art cars. The heavily modified vehicles of all shapes and sizes from autonomous drinking fountains and Tojian horses to full-size rolling pirate ships, roam the Black Rock Desert.

American concert producers Insomniac built an art car for this year's event, and enlisted the design skills of Funktion One and Chicago-based Sound Investment Audio to create the ultimate mobile sound system. The sound system design had to meet a varied list of specifications that included being mobile, be able to operate in ambient temperatures exceeding 110°F, be completely impervious to the alkaline playa dust storms, and also be able to produce powerful and involving sound outdoors. These design criteria demanded a sound system of minimal size and weight with maximum output. Funktion One's loudspeakers fit the bill.

At the DMV (Dept of Mutant Vehicles), all vehicles are inspected in an effort to keep the event artistically rich. During Insomniac's art car visit to the DMV it was recognised as being among the most creative and well constructed of 2011's Burning Man. A brief ceremony was held

and the car's fabricator, Dave Shields, accepted a plaque, medal and ribbon.

As the Insomniac car was used predominantly for dance music playback via a DJ, it was critical to include enough subwoofers to achieve the desired low-end output. The system comprised a total of seven Funktion One F221 subwoofers and the low end from the 14 21-inch drivers was tremendous and capable of high impact at distance outdoors. The Funktion One mid / highs for the system were a custom arrangement of their horn-loaded 10-inch and one-inch devices. These mid / high sections were chosen for their extremely high sensitivity, superb sonic quality and compact form.

The main stacks, each of which had three F221's and four mid / high sections were mounted on six by four carts with 12-inch pneumatic wheels and active suspension. The carts were attached to the side of the car and rolled along with the car as it crossed the playa surface. The speakers providing sound aboard the vehicle itself were Funktion One AX88's and F221's, and the DJ monitoring comprised a pair of F1 Resolution2SH mid highs with an MB212 bass.

Amplification of the system was challenging as there are substantial dust storms on the

playa which can wreak havoc on electronic systems. The dust is said to be alkaline, electrically conductive and capable of dissolving solder in circuit boards. Conventional rack mounted amplifiers were therefore avoided. Sound Investment's Todd Konecny designed and fabricated three amplifier housings with ventilation to the outside air through high performance air filters.

The amplifier modules were mounted within the housings to massive heatsinks and provided about 70,000W of power to the system. The blowers for this ventilation were on thermostats so that air was only exchanged when the interior temperatures reached 110°F. The entire system used XTA DP448 controllers and the power distribution was three phase from a generator trailer towed behind the car.

Burning Man has a famous fire theme and Wide Awake was adorned with a 16ft propane cannon in the centre of the car. Main tanks were located at the rear of the car with a reservoir charge tank at the top of the tower. The fire cannon was capable of tremendous blasts of fire, which, in the middle of the dark playa had a dramatic visual effect.