



SYSTEM PROBLEMS

range units which were faulty and experienced cone breakup at inputs in excess of 2 watts.

When the difficulties had been sorted out, we carried on with our listening tests and were immediately impressed by an open, spacious sound and great detail. The ultimate bass extension will depend to some extent on the room size, ours extended to just below 40Hz without serious drop-off in our chosen room. Transient attack in the bass and mid-range was superb and the overall system efficiency was notably higher than competitive units. We also note that the latest production employs a selected amount of wool fibre in the cavity behind the bass units, to further smooth the response.

The mid-range horn and integral driver could be turned through an angle of plus or minus 45 degrees to accurately position the stereo image, but dispersion from the treble horn was good enough without adjustment. The crossover network is mounted on a glass fibre board immediately behind the midrange driver, and employs low loss ferrite cored inductors and close tolerance capacitors to accurately tailor the response.

Fuse protection to the mid-range and treble units is also provided. It proved possible, even with the lower powered version of the Lecson amplifier to provide more than adequate domestic sound output, and we would imagine that at the rated 100 watts input, the sound output would be sufficient for a hall, even on high intensity disco type music. Certainly, this is a loudspeaker with which one can annoy the neighbours, but not, we are pleased to say, the owner. Comparison with the Ditton 66 showed a subjectively more extended bass and treble from the Ditton, but rather better transient attack and bite from the Lecson, which was also slightly more efficient.

The top wood panel is removable and provides access to the mid-range and top units and the crossover and fuse boards. Due to the very high degree of damping provided by horn loading all the units, the impedance remains between 6-12 ohms throughout the range, and somewhat smaller magnet systems can be safely used without fear of ringing. The system also, for a similar reason, proved less affected by long runs of speaker cable lowering the amplifier damping factor. The stereo spread was extremely stable, probably due to the controlled radiation pattern.

Not the ultimate

The usual couple of reservations and criticisms, but we feel that, even if you did not approve in the same way as we

do of this system's appearance, the performance would still warrant this sort of expenditure. The sound is not quite the ultimate, but we feel that considerably higher cost would be met to show an audible improvement in a domestic setting.

Prices:

- i) Transcriptor Hydraulic Reference Standard turntable with 9in arm, acrylic cover, stylus brush and sweep arm.
- ii) Empire 1000 ZE/X II cartridge.
- iii) Lecson AC1, AP1. Pre amp and power amplifier.
£192.50 inc. VAT total
- iv) Lecson HLI speakers—choice of colours, per pair.
Standard £98 each inc. VAT

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Lecson transducer setup ready for playing in a typical domestic environment