



By Doug Doppler

VB Amp and Speaker Enclosures – Isolation Done Right

Removing amps and cabinets from the worship platform is great for taming sound wars, and has the arguable benefit of being more visually pleasing. But if you've invested hundreds if not thousands of dollars into an amp that loves to be turned up, a VB Amp Enclosure may be the solution your Church (or studio) has been looking for.

VocalBooth has been designing and manufacturing isolation enclosures for over a decade. As the name implies the company got its start building vocal booths, initially for home studios like that of founder Calvin Mann.

In addition to a robust line of modular vocal and drum isolation booths (including the 53' VB Mobile Studio), VocalBooth has four sizes available for amps or cabinets. VocalBooth can build custom sized amp enclosures as well that can handle various size Leslie speaker cabinets for example. The VB Amp Enclosure is available with or without ventilation, something one may need to consider for combo amps. All enclosures include VB's proprietary Iso Pad to help prevent cabinets from coupling with stages, and to keep mics vibration-free from outside disturbances. The interior is lined with acoustic treatment that

reduces noise and helps prevent standing waves.

Although the "Large VB AMP Box" sent for testing arrived in a massive crate, it took less than a half hour to set up. With exterior dimensions of 49"H x 48"W x 48"D I had more than enough room to stack a 1x12 combo on top of a 2x12 cab, along with two mic stands. All VB units feature a cable port so you can get cabling and power in and out of the booth without compromising isolation. Not a big issue for most services, but if you're doing any live recordings isolating your amp or cabinet from exterior noise is nearly as important as isolating other sounds sources from blaring guitars.

In addition to worship services, VB Amp Enclosures are particularly useful in home



"standing waves" bouncing off of parallel reflective surfaces like floors and ceilings.

Just like at Church, keeping your speakers isolated from the listening environment makes mixing much easier – with the added benefit of being able to easily use your mains to test mic placement. The unit VB sent sports a front facing door, which makes for super easy mic adjustments. I set the enclosure up 180 degrees behind my control surface so I could easily listen to the sound with the door off and then flip around to compare it with what was coming out of the mains once the door was closed. If you've got a really loud amp in the room, it can easily overpower headphones and will trash your ears as you try to find some sort of balance.

If you've been looking to get some speaker volume back into your mix, visit VocalBooth.com.

or project studios, which are rarely equipped with a separate tracking room. Isolating your amp from playback monitors and click tracks is but one of the many luxuries afforded. The biggest challenge most home studios face is bad acoustics in rooms that were never designed to track much less monitor in. Not the least of these issues are

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