

## THE AUDIO FILES



The Coven's owner Jan Zerecky (left) with BEAT Audio's and Mark Kelly

## BEATING HEART OF OXFORD CLUB SCENE

BEAT Audio has installed the first Funktion One Resolution system in the Thames Valley – at Oxford's Coven Club. The Coven is Oxford's best-known independent dance venue, a clubbing landmark in the city that's been established for 30 years. Peter Zerecky originally opened it in 1974. Over the last 2 years, the venue has been run by his son Jan, whose aims to bring credible dance music to the city via the Coven. The need for quality audio in the venue has always been a priority, and during a recent refit Peter and Jan looked at a number of options for new sound technology. After careful research they approached Funktion One – who's reputation among dance aficionados is unsurpassed – and were put in touch with Mark Kelly from Beat Audio, the local Funktion One hire and sales dealer. Kelly took the Zereckys to Oxford Brookes University to check out the installation work he had carried out for the SU in their 1100 capacity venue and to listen to Kelly's F1 Res 4 system, which is based there. Kelly was recommended by the Brookes crew to project manage the Coven installation. Kelly, by his own admission a complete Funktion One fan, is dedicated to specifying and completing audio installations to

the highest possible standard in all respects.

Jan was impressed by the clarity and phenomenal bass response of BEAT Audio's Res 4 system while Peter loved the neat and versatile industrial standard cabling system. Kelly visited the Coven, an intimate 450 capacity space with a cosy sunken main dance floor – a club where dancing is the primary raison d'être.

The Coven system is based on four silver Resolution 4 skeletal cabinets, flown horizontally due to the low ceiling height – their appearance in keeping with the industrial aesthetics of the environment. They're passively crossed over between the 1" and 8" drivers.

Kelly decided on a mono sub-bass configuration, because the Coven plays a lot of drum 'n' bass and other hardcore dance, and not to put too finer point on it – they wanted it 'shit-kicking'! This is composed of three Funktion One 218s, stacked horizontally on the ground, against one wall of the dancefloor, for the lowest possible, thundering bass frequency response.

To bring some bass up into the balcony and bar level of the Coven, Kelly installed an additional two Funktion One F118s on the balcony either side of the flown Resolution

4s.

Coven is also one of the first installations utilising the new Funktion One amplifiers – manufactured by MC2 and hot-rodded to

Funktion One's special spec. One E45 is driving the subs and two E25s drive the low mids and high mid/highs. The crossover is a 2 in – 6 out Funktion One's X01 controller. "Every component in this system is designed and manufactured in Britain" declares Kelly proudly. "All are hand-picked to optimise the unique Resolution sound". They're also awaiting delivery of one of Funktion One's brand new DJ mixers, which has been developed with Formula Sound. This mixer is the result of several years of research by Tony Andrews and his team.

This means that there's now an integrated system from input to output, all from one manufacturer, developed specifically to optimise all potentials.

Kelly, a self-confessed, 'cable fetishist' designed the Coven's cabling system in conjunction with Giles Copeman at VDC. For total sonicality and full maximisation of the signal path between amplifier and speaker, every driver has its own dedicated pair of 4mm cables



of the highest quality. The new system has had "Phenomenal impact" on Coven regulars – clubbers, DJs and workers – says Jan Zerecky. He adds that it's been great working with Mark Kelly for his enthusiasm and true appreciation of quintessential sound system design and great dance music. Kelly says, "It's been a complete pleasure and good fun to work with Jan and Peter. They want the very best without any compromises and understand the fundamental importance of creating an 'exceptional sound' to ice the cake of any good night out". The venue is regularly open Fridays and Saturdays and is rammed every weekend. Friday's 'Love Shack' is Oxford's longest established gay night, featuring charts-and-cheese to high-energy dance. Each Saturday of the month hosts a different resident club night, bringing the dynamic vibes of d'n'b, psytrance, hip-hop, break beat and hard dance to the house.