



## DBX RTA-M

You know every now and then you run across an item almost by mistake. Let me explain, I was in a bind when one of my B&K 4007 Microphones was damaged. This particular mic has been the standard for test measurement systems, and I have faithfully used this one for the past several years. So when this mic was damaged, I was heart broke.

I decided to check out the DBX RTA-M reference test microphone. The first thing I did was compare the impulse response with a B&K 4007. The DBX mic resulted in a opposite polarity impulse from the B&K. Not really a problem for me though, I can easily reverse the polarity of the DBX, which I do. Next thing that is very obvious is the DBX mic has significantly more output level. Not a bad thing. But what is the frequency response like I wondered? To check this, I used a pair of JBL LSR6328P reference monitors. I first look at the frequency response of the B&K using Smaart 5.5. Then I ran the same test with the DBX mic. Was I ever in for a pleasant surprise.... Almost EXACTLY the identical response! My first reaction was to think this must be some kind of measurement error. How could this DBX be this FLAT in both its frequency response, and show exactly an identical phase response? Just to make the test more interesting, I decided to add a third element. The Earthworks M40. To my surprise, the Earthworks was off by more than 4db in its upper frequency response from both the DBX and B&K, and yet exhibited also an identical phase response. So I decided to give the DBX a test run, and for the past 3 months I have been very satisfied with the results I am getting from using it. Just to satisfy my questioning mind, I have referenced it against the B&K time and time again, all with the same results.

Placing reference mics in a Venue is sometimes a risky thing. They can be subject to being stolen, knocked around or even sometimes provide a nice vocal mic for the audience to sing into... (I can't tell you how many times that this has happened). When comparing the price of a B&K mic which costs over \$2000.00 dollars to the DBX which costs under \$120.00 dollars, I can tell you how easy the choice was for me to add the DBX mic to my measurement tools.

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