

AUDIO TEST

STEREO | STREAMING | HIGH END



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GUTE ANLAGE(N)

STEREO – SURROUND – 2.1

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TEST-PDF
VELODYNE DEEP BLUE 12

6 x SUBWOOFER

TREIBER BIS 30 CM IM TEST

ECHTER KINO BASS

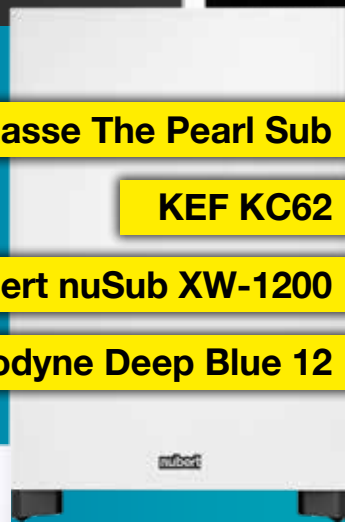
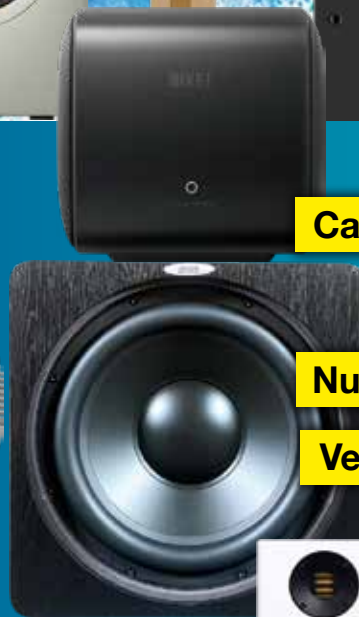


Cabasse The Pearl Sub

KEF KC62

Nubert nuSub XW-1200

Velodyne Deep Blue 12



Philips Fidelio X3 Test
Wieder Qualität wie früher?

Elac Solano BS 283
Die neuen Kompakten im Test



Velodyne Deep Blue 12

Mysteries of the deep



AUDIO TEST

4/2021

very good
(88,5%)

Velodyne Deep Blue 12

www.likehifi.de

For some music lovers, the limits of the audible spectrum form an almost transcendental zone, which can reveal completely new acoustic dimensions when explored. That's why we're going on a dive today with Velodyne's Deep Blue 12.

Alex Röser, Stefan Goedecke

What do you associate with the color blue? The spring sky that is slowly arriving over here? An unlucky football club from Western Germany? Reassuringly illuminated status LEDs? Last but not least probably water, right? The hotel pool that so many are longing for after more than a year of Corona. The fun pool, which we hope to be able to visit again soon. And of course the blue sea, symbol of peace and relaxation. However, it is also a playground for the tides and dangerous forces of nature. The sea holds secrets that are still unfathomable for us.

Man has always been fascinated by the seemingly endless expanse of the ocean and its mysterious

depths. Just last year, the Chinese deep-sea submarine Fendouzhe was the fourth mission ever to reach the bottom of the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench at a depth of almost 11,000 meters. Incidentally, the first person to dive into this eerie depth alone in 2012 was film director James Cameron, under whose leadership two of the three most commercially successful titles in film history were created, Avatar and – fittingly – Titanic. One notices: the blue depth stimulates reflection, invites you to imagine.

Velodyne goes deep

As a manufacturer of hi-fi equipment, you could hardly think of a more appropriate name for a sub-

woofer series than Deep Blue. Velodyne Acoustics is one of the manufacturers that has not only rarely been discussed in the AUDIO TEST, but has so far attracted little attention from the local hi-fi community. So far, we have actually only had two subwoofers from the manufacturer as guests. Incidentally, the first time was almost exactly ten years ago, when the Velodyne CHT-12-Q subwoofer achieved a very good test result of 86.5 % in issue 04/2011. Then we heard nothing from Velodyne for almost a decade, until we were able to get to know the impressive Velodyne Wi-Q 10 subwoofer last year.

Velodyne has been one of the pioneers of bass reproduction for almost thirty years and has

always established itself as the driving force of this product category with innovative ideas and concepts. Originally based in California, the company now belongs to the Hamburg hi-fi empire of Audio Reference. Company founder Mansour Mamaghani has been proving his excellent hand in brand selection for over twenty years. Velodyne is probably in the best of company with names such as Krell, Miller & Kreisel and Wilson Audio. While some manufacturers cover a wide range of device classes with a wide range of products, Velodyne can be classified more as a specialist for home cinema loudspeakers with depth - subwoofers. The company's catalog currently only includes a wide variety of subwoofer types and dedicated subwoofer amplifiers. Be it the wireless active Wi-Q or the „invisible“ in-wall solution from the SubContractor series - Velodyne has a solution for all bass reproduction needs.

Deep Blue 12

For this edition however, as already announced, we are interested in the recently released Deep Blue Series collection and from it the second largest subwoofer model, the Velodyne Deep Blue 12 (DB-12). After we got to know the Velodyne WiQ-10, an innovative and modern designed subwoofer, we are dealing with the representative of the Deep Blue Series with a more conventional delegate of its guild. The actively working Deep Blue 12 can only be played analog, either via high-level inputs (stereo and LFE) or gold-plated cinch inputs. Velodyne repeats the appearance of the WiQ and gives no reason for complaints with regard to the processing quality. Both the connections / ports and the potentiometers are of very high quality and suggest long-lasting functionality.

Incidentally, we find three of the latter on the control panel of the Deep Blue 12. On the one hand there is the obligatory volume control, on the other hand you can also adjust the phase rotation and cut-off frequency of the

low-pass filter. Above all, the possibility of phase rotation of up to 180 degrees can prove to be extremely useful due to the large wavelengths of low-frequency signals. And we will also make use of the possibility of fine-tuning the crossover later. But more on that later. On the conversion side, the Velodyne subwoofer Deep Blue 12 works, as the name suggests, with a 12-inch cone made of reinforced polypropylene. This is driven by a strong double ferrite magnet and a voice coil measuring 65 millimeters. The dynamic output power of a whopping 850 watts is generated by a powerful class AB amplifier. Velodyne specifies a frequency range of 15 to 250 Hertz (Hz) for the Deep Blue 12, although we want to assume that we want to cut the sub well

below the upper limit frequency.

Mysteries of the deep

For the musical part of this test, we connect the Velodyne Deep Blue 12 with the Elegance G120 floor-standing speakers and the Joy S119 network player from Revox. In theory, the positioning of the subwoofer is extremely flexible due to the fact that the bass frequencies cannot actually be localized. In practice, however, we often had different experiences so that we also placed the Deep Blue 12 in the middle between the speakers in this test.

In general, we even tend to rely on a stereo setup for the basses, although we should pay careful attention to the phasing in order to avoid mutual signal cancellation. Now that we have positioned



The textile speaker grille hides the eponymous 12-inch driver. However, this comes to light without further ado thanks to a practical loop.



Not least because of the useful configurations of phase length and low-pass filter, Velodyne deserves its good reputation.

our test pattern and connected it to the player via the LFE path, we can actually start with the listening test. We compulsorily commit it with the reference track for bass performance par excellence: the 2010 song „Limit To Your Love“ by James Blake. Hardly any other production dares as much modulation and movement on the “doorstep to infrasound” as the cover version of the title originally composed by Feist and Chilly Gonzales.

Not only the depth of the unmistakable bass melody, but also the frequency and amplitude modulations placed on it make the song a real challenge for most speakers. We hear the track for the first time without the Revox loudspeakers in order to determine where we should locate the dividing line of the filter. We level off between about 70 and 100 Hz. At this point, the audio crossover should cut the signal with 12 decibels per octave. And when we only hear the song once in the “frequency basement”, it is immediately noticeable how

clean Velodyne’s Deep Blue 12 goes to work here. The dangerously wafting movements of the bass are clearly articulated by the sub and the melodic movements are clearly separated from each other. At the same time, the 12-inch model also demonstrates impressive impulse fidelity. This is particularly noticeable with electronic

SUMMARY

Velodyne offers discretion with a decent displacement at the same time with the Deep Blue 12. The active twelve-incher can be integrated into any setup due to adjustable volume, filter and phase position and tailored to the most diverse needs. You can tell that the deep bass comes from a house that has been dealing with nothing else than the perfect bass for almost thirty years.

FEATURES

- adjustable phasing
- automatic wake-up
- adjustable low-pass filter

Advantages + precise, controlled sound
+ flexible in use

Disadvantages - none

dance music, such as the title „Sponsored By Destiny“ by the Swedish combo Slagmalklubben. The sub-kick, which is already very deep, is transported by the Velodyne Deep Blue 12 subwoofer with a great deal of precision and „punch“. What the Deepsea Challenger was to James Cameron, the Deep Blue 12 from Velodyne is clearly to us today. With a thirst for research and a willingness to take risks, he is an indispensable companion when exploring acoustic depths. We would love to go on such a dive again – ahoy! ■

FEATURES

General	
Device class	Subwoofer
Price band	Middle range
Manufacturer	Velodyne Acoustics
Model	Deep Blue 12
Price (EIA)	1 190 Euro
Dimensions (H/W/D)	35 × 37 × 38,8 cm
Weight	13 kg
Information	www.audio-reference.com

Technical Information (manufacturer)

Method of operating	active
Construction type	closed
Frequency response	15 – 250 Hz
Power	850 dynamic, 350 RMS
Connection to source	analog
Power consumption	not specified
Room recommendation	15 – 30 m ²
Individual sound adjustment	Low pass filter, phasing
Inputs	High level, LFE, Stereo line

EVALUATION

Bass reproduction		65/70
Reproduction quality		65/70
Equipment/workmanship		8,5/10
User-friendliness		7/10
Appreciation/Depreciation		none
Interim result		80,5 of 90 points
Price-performance	good	8/10
Result		very good 88,5%



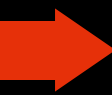
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