

VELODYNE MICROVEE X



Text & Pictures

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Velodyne Acoustics MicroVee X

Price: 1.290 Euro

Distribution: Audio Reference GmbH

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Velodyne Acoustics

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MINI SUB

powers up

Subwoofers in a stereo set - something you don't see very often. In home theater setups, however, they are omnipresent and take some low-end work off the speakers. Introducing the Velodyne MicroVee X - a mini-woofer which the Hamburg-based company Audio Reference has recently added to its lineup. Our review reveals what it has to offer.



Velodyne Acoustics

MicroVee X



**Do you need a new subwoofer for your system?
We've tried out a bass box that might be small in
size but huge in sound.**



REVIEW

Velodyne Acoustics is well-known for their subwoofers. Especially for really big ones, able to cause earthquakes in the home theater. For example, the Digital Drive 18 Plus with an 18-inch driver, a cutoff frequency of 14 Hertz (Hz) and a weight of approx. 64 kilograms (kg).

In contrast, we're now looking at the Velodyne MicroVee X. The tiny device measures just 23 cm x 23 cm x 25 cm and weighs 9 kg, and thus can even be moved around pretty easily. Ideal for a rather small living room environment.

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But the MicroVee X is not just any subwoofer. The Hamburg-based engineers from Audio Reference and Velodyne have created something special. The cube not only brings more low-frequency richness, but also provides a positive effect on the overall sound image.”

Or why not set up two at once? Due to its micro dimensions, this is totally possible and the acoustic room response will definitely thank you for that. Nevertheless, we'll limit ourselves to one, because this subwoofer is quite advanced in terms of technology and performance.

The Velodyne MicroVee X comes with three identical 6.5" (16.5 cm) carbon composite drivers - one actively driven and centrally directed, the other two, passively, are placed opposite to each other on the outsides. If the active cone swings out, the rear sound sets the passive radiators in motion and thus provides more thrust in the low-frequency range. This works up to a frequency of 32 Hz (-3 dB).

Amplification is handled by a classic Class AB amplifier that is able to deliver 300 watts (W) of continuous power and 800 W of peak power in an extreme situation. Distortions are reduced to a minimum by the Digital Drive Control System.

AUDIO REFERENCE X VELODYNE ACOUSTICS

When Dave Hall launched Velodyne Acoustics in 1983, with the aim of transforming the enjoyment of music and movies home into a new experience, he had a unique feel for an upcoming mega trend.

Today, it is impossible to imagine consumer electronics without subwoofers. By pioneering products and patents, Velodyne Acoustics has left a significant mark on an entire product category.

In 2019, Mansour Mamaghani, with his company Audio Reference, a long-time German distributor of Velodyne Acoustics, acquired the company. And so, the Californian subwoofer forge joined the “Hanseatic League.”—ready to define a new generation of bass for the next 30 years to come.

CONNECTIONS

Do you want to connect multiple subs in series?

Where should the subwoofer be located - at the desk or in the home theater?

The Velodyne subwoofer is available in black or white. The solid metal housing comes with embedded cooling elements so that the bass cube does not overheat due to its enormous power.

A black layer of anodized aluminum provides a scratch-resistant surface. Good to know: Fingerprints are not visible on it.

The rear offers space for a LFE cable, a RCA connection and a pair of simple cable clamps for speakers. The latter are rather unusual on a subwoofer of this class, but can be useful for a high-quality sub-satellite system at the desk. In addition, the MicroVee X offers an RCA output that can be used to connect a second sub in series.

Above the connection panel are the familiar settings for volume, phase, low-pass filter and crossover bypass. Furthermore, there is an auto-on circuit that activates the subwoofer when an audio signal is received.

A power indicator provides information about the current operating status and a LED chain visualizes the present volume. In contrast, the front is completely clean and free of any buttons or lights except for the Velodyne logo. The included micro remote control brings all setting options into the palm of your hand.



THREE IN ONE

AN ACTIVE DRIVER,
TWO PASSIVE RADIATORS



LISTENING SESSION

We started our listening test with music and tried out the MicroVee X with different speakers. Immediately, it became clear that our loudspeakers, regardless of the respective manufacturer, benefited from the additional low-end.

One of these tracks is "Overgrown" by James Blake. The sub-bass that you would otherwise hardly notice suddenly appeared. This was not only audible, but also tangible. Bass drums did sound more lively and deep piano notes received more texture.

Even pronounced percussion interludes played much more catchy and exciting. The cube did not only bring more low-frequency fullness, but also had a positive effect on the entire sound image, including the mids and highs. Wagner's overture of the Flying Dutchman thus became even larger and more spacious. Also the soundstage seemed wider; the MicroVee X filled the room noticeably. Can others do more? Yes, to some extent. But they also have larger drivers and more cabinet volume.

They are a better choice than pure LFE channels in large home theaters. If you want to recreate your favorite cinema at home with the MicroVee X subwoofer, you'll need a few more of them.

Velodyne already extracts the maximum out of the woofers' minimal dimensions. The sub pleases with its insane control, dynamic playfulness and tight impulses. An excellent choice for the stereo system. For movies and series as well, if the living space is not exorbitant.

CONCLUSION

The MicroVee X is not just any subwoofer. The Hamburg-based engineers from Audio Reference and Velodyne have created something special here. First, because the sub's size and industrial-style design make it a pleasure to look at in the living room. Secondly, because it delivers exceptional performance, offers a lot of control and emits a surprisingly deep bass. An exciting way to fill up the stereo system with real low-end. ■