



SUBWOOFER OF THE YEAR

PureLow LO

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The LO from French subwoofer expert PureLow is based on the Orthophase driver design, a topology that dates back as far as 1959. The 1m square driver is a unique form of planar magnetic, where the wires of the voice coil sit on stand-offs, behind the diaphragm and contained in deep, U-shaped magnetic channels; the result is a diaphragm with a swept area equivalent to eleven conventional 15” drivers, with a maximum excursion that’s greater than $\pm 9\text{mm}$ and that’s driven across its entire surface area! Each speaker is hand assembled and exactly tuned by Patrick Marchandot and his team, a process that takes more than 200 hours for each unit.

All of which makes the LO a unique proposition for audiophile sub-bass. This is not your re-tasked cinema sub; it’s a large, dedicated sub-bass panel where you have to source your own crossover and amplifiers!

In our test, Roy Gregory was impressed by the speed of installation and set-up; “This is by far the easiest subwoofer I’ve ever had to position and adjust. You should be able to achieve excellent results in as little as 15 minutes, a direct result of the unit’s astonishing clarity and transparency.”

“But what makes it really special is the quality of the low frequencies it delivers.” Said Roy, “This is low-frequency extension with the kind of clarity, transparency and definition I’d expect from most systems’ midrange, in no small part down to the linearity that results from the flat impedance characteristic, absence of cabinet and phase coherence of the LO. When it comes to the lowest frequencies, this is the very definition of quality, yet it is combined with the seemingly effortless provision of almost limitless quantity.”

He concluded by saying, “It might seem counter-intuitive that something so big and that ostensibly deals with weight and power, scale and impact should have such a profound affect on the natural subtlety and intimacy of voices, on the recorded event as a whole, but that’s exactly what genuinely linear and transparent extension does. The PureLow LO delivers bass notes with shape and substance, texture and subtlety to match the most delicate and transparent mid-bands.” +

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