

Powered Subwoofers

By Bill Evans

Concert quality subs with drivers of at least 18 inches are already beasts. So, what the hell, we might as well put the power in the box, too. Truth is, we decided to do a Buyers Guide on powered subs and realized that unless we were prepared to publish it in book form we would need a way to further limit submissions. We thought the 18-inch driver would do it, but as you can see below,

there are still plenty of flavors out there to choose from. Some are “specialists” providing sub-bass and power and nothing else. Others seek to be the foundation of a system and provide DSP, crossover and sometimes even power for top boxes all in one box. Whatever you need, there is something out there to fill that void with a whole buncha thump. **FOH**

Company	Model	MSRP	Dimensions	Weight	Frequency Response	Maximum SPL	PAR	Cabinet Design
A-line Acoustics	LS218A	\$3,499	44.5 X 21.8 X 22.8	160 lbs.	40-200Hz	133 db	1000W	Vented
	LS218AAHP	\$6,249	44.5 X 21.8 X 27.8	195 lbs.	30-150 Hz	140 db	2000W	
Bag End	PS18E-R	\$1,930	22" X 22" X 18"	70 lbs.	8-95 Hz	122 dB SPL	1000W	Sealed ELF
	PD18E-R	\$3,060	42" X 22" X 18"	135 lbs.		129 dB SPL		
	PQUARTZ-R	\$5,750	40" X 30" X 31"	247 lbs.		123 dB SPL	2000W	
Carvin	LS1801NA	\$549.99	23.5"X19.75" X 22.75"	58 lbs.	30-80Hz (or 120Hz)	128 dB	700W / 1400W peak	Bass-reflex
Cerwin-Vega	CVA-118	\$999	25" X 21" X 23.5"	115 lbs.	41-135Hz (-3dB)	131 dB	1400W peak	Front loaded, ported
	CVA-121	\$1,599	31.75" X 23.5" X 23.5"	180 lbs.	35-135Hz (-3db)	135 dB	2400W peak	
DAS Audio	LX-218A	\$7,127	22x51x26	161 lbs.	28-85Hz	141 dB	2200W RMS	Bass Reflex
FBT USA	FBT Hi Maxx 100sa	\$2,300	20.8" X 23" X 27"	92 lbs.	36-120Hz	135 dB	1800W Continuous	Vented Bandpass
ISP Technologies	XMAX 118	\$2,310	24" X 31.5" X 21"	115lbs.	38-100Hz	129 db	1000W RMS	13 ply baltic birch bass reflex
	XMAX 218	\$4,180	48" X 22.5" X 30"	230lbs.	28-120Hz	137db	2000W RMS	Bass reflex 13 ply baltic birch
	SA 118	\$1,980	24" X 31.5" X 24"	115lbs.	38-100Hz	126 db	600W RMS stand alone 1000W RMS with additional external SP118	
JBL Professional	VT4880ADP	\$8,999	48.4" X 19.9" X 39.8"	219 lbs.	29-120 Hz +/- 3dB	143 dB SPL, 1m	6900W peak / 3500W continuous	Centrally-vented, front loaded
	VT4881ADP	\$5,169	31" X 22.4" X 31.5"	137 lbs.	34-125 Hz +/- 3 dB	131 dB SPL, 1m	3600W peak / 1800W continuous	Front-loaded, dual ported
	VRX 918SP	\$2,299	20" X 23.5" X 29.5"	85 lbs.	34-220 Hz, +/- 3 dB	126 dB SPL, 1m	1500W peak / 750W continuous	Front-loaded, ported
	VPSB7118DP	\$4,999	20.25" X 27.63" X 32"	129 lbs.	39-145 Hz +/- 3 dB	129 dB SPL, 1m	3600W peak / 1800W continuous	
Mackie	SWA1801z	\$1,799.99	28.5" X 23.5" X 23.5"	132 lbs.	35-120Hz	135 dB	1000W peak	15mm Baltic birch
Martin Audio	ASX	N/A	47" X 24" X 47"	353 lbs.	30-150Hz	152 dB	8500W	Hybrid Horn Loaded Reflex design
Meyer Sound Labs	700-HP Ultra-High-Power Subwoofer	\$8,100	45.93" X 22.50" X 30.00"	204 lbs.	30-125 Hz ±4 dB	139 dB	2250W (1125W / channel)	Multi-ply hardwood with black textured finish
Outline s.r.l.	SUBTECH 218 SP	N/A	43.3" X 25.6" X 23.6"	176 lbs.	35-350Hz (+ - 3db)	137dB continuous, 143 dB peak	2 X 1050W @ 8 ohm (1kHz, 1%THD EIAJ)	Bass reflex
Peavey	PV 118D	\$799.99	27" X 21.88" X 19.63"	76 lbs.	49-180 Hz	126 dB	300W (Class D)	MDF covered in Black Carpet
QSC Audio Products, LLC	HPR118i	\$1,999	28.6" X 23.5" X 22.9"	127 lbs.	45-95 Hz	134 dB peak	700W (Class H)	Bass reflex, birch plywood
RCF USA INC.	4PRO 8003-AS	\$2,199	29" X 22" X 29"	108 lbs.	40Hz X-Over Point	134 dB	Self powered 1000W RMS	Bass Reflex
	NX S21-A	3,499	29.5" X 30" X 27.5"	117 lbs.	40-120 Hz	136 dB	1000W RMS, digital	
Renkus-Heinz, Inc.	DRS18-2R	\$5,525	24" X 48" X 24"	204 lbs.	32-120 Hz	135 dB peak	2 X 1000W	Direct Radiating, Bass Reflex
Samson Technologies	DB1800a	\$699	21.5" X 27" X 23.25"	80 lbs.	20-240Hz+/-3 dB	95 dB SPL @ 1 W/1m	1000W Program, 500WRMS	3/4" plywood, carpet covered
Turbosound	TSW-218DP	\$8,299	22.6" X 55.1" X 30.3"	248.6 lbs.	35-150Hz ±4dB recommended operational range below 250Hz	136 dB continuous, 142 dB peak	2,500W voltage-sensing (Class-D)	18mm (3/4") birch plywood throughout; rebated, screwed and glued. Finished in black
	B-18DP	\$5,199	30.2" X 22.6" X 27.6"	148.5 lbs.	40-150Hz ±4dB	130 dB continuous, 136 dB peak	1600W power-sensing (Class-D)	18mm (3/4") birch plywood; rebated, screwed and glued. Finished in black semi-matt textured
Wharfedale Pro	EVP-X18PB	\$899	24" X 20.6" X 24"	108.2 lbs.	40-200Hz	NR	400W RMS / 600W peak	Black carpet finish, top stand adapter, rectangular enclosure
	Twin 18X-Sub Active	\$1,399	28.3" X 27.2" X 21.2"	155.8 lbs.	35-200 Hz	130 dB	NR	18mm Birch plywood, black or white textured paint, part steel grille, top stand adapter, 4 handles, 4 rubber feet



Martin Audio ASX



JBL VT4880 ADP



ISP Technologies XMAX 218

Driver Size	Interfaces	Onboard Processing
2 X 18"	Balanced transformer isolated input /output	ICE powered Bang and Olufsen with on board DSP
18"	XLR Power con	Powered with proven Bang & Olufsen ICEpower, ICE technology with onboard DSP, the LS218AAHP includes switchable omni/cardioid operation for better low frequency pattern control from 30-90Hz.
2 X 18"		None, Requires Infra Processor
4 X 18"		
18"	XLR and 1/4 inputs. Male XLR for chaining and switch able high pass filter. Volume control Cross-over switch able to 80Hz, 120Hz, or wide open.	Internal clip activated limiters. 3rd order 30Hz low cut filter. 4th order linkwitz-riley low pass crossover.
18"	Line Input - Thru/Slave Output x2 Crossover Output x2	Variable crossover frequency High Pass Filter Variable Low Pass Filter Polarity Switch
21"	Inputs XLR/F Balanced (x2) 1/4" TRS (x2) Outputs XLR/M (x2) XLR/M Slave	HPF 65 Hz, 85 Hz, 130 Hz variable LPF 65 Hz, 130 Hz polarity switch 0/180 degrees parametric EQ Gain, freq, Q
2 X 18"	Networking	DSP
18" Dual Coil	L&R Balanced XLR in/ outs, Filtered XLR outs, Volume control, Ground lift switch.	Built in Active Stereo Crossover, Active analog signal processing, Active limiter circuitry, FBT's ADAP component protection circuitry
18"	XLR Inputs Left and Right XLR outputs Left and Right, XLR High Pass for Left and Right Outputs	24bd per octact internal low pass and High Pass outputs for both left and right outputs
Dual 18" with 4" voice coils	Stereo XLR input, stereo XLR output, Stereo XLR high pass outputs internal crossover can be bypassed for use with external crossover	24db per octave Linkwitz Riley crossover for lowpass and stereo high pass outputs
18"	Stereo XLR input, stereo XLR output, stereo XLR high pass outputs	
2x18" 2269G dual voice coils	XLR audio input, Powercon AC. Optional HiQnet input modules (analog or digital) for remote control & monitoring with System Architect software.	DBX Type IV A-to-D conversion, DSP bandpass filters, pre-e.q., limiters, self-test function.
1x18" 2269G dual voice coil		
1x18" 2268H dual voice coil	XLR audio, Powercon AC	DSP-based system opimtizaton, pre-e.q., limiting, crossover.
1x18" 2268G daul voice coil	XLR audio input, Powercon AC. Optional HiQnet input modules (analog or digital) for remote control & monitoring with System Architect software.	DBX Type IV A-to-D conversion, DSP bandpass filters, pre-e.q., limiters, self-test function.
18" w/ 4" voice coil	Dual balanced female XLR inputs Dual balanced male XLR thrus Dual balanced male XLR high pass outputs	Crossover filters, system EQ, polarity invert, limiting and other protection for the transducer and electronics
21"	Female XLR input, male XLR link output. DSP Control Input RS485 Port RJ45 socket	The loudspeaker shall incorporate an integral Class D amplifier module with a peak output power of 8500W, a DSP system and a differential pressure sensor.
2 X 18" cone drivers	Differential, electronically balanced input, uses Female XLR input with male XLR loop output or VEAM all-in one (integrates AC, audio and RMS network). Also has optional RMS Network, equipped for two conductor twisted-pair network, reporting all operating parameters of amplifiers to system operatoris host computer.	The 700HP's internal processing takes care of optimizing the subwoofer's bandpass and limiter protection to get the most power possible out of the mechanical parts of this loudspeaker.
2 X18"	Signal: XLR male/female --Main Power: Powercon male/female	-
18"	Female XLR mic- or line-level balanced input; Male XLR jack switchable for either high-pass or thru; One 1/4" phone jacks for speaker in capability	Woofer servo circuit, the Constant Loudness (Fletcher-Munson) circuit, exclusive bass contour circuitry proprietary DDT, loudspeaker protection technology Fourth-order Linkwitz-Riley crossover
18"		Balanced female XLR line level inputs X 2 (L+R) Balanced male XLR full range line level throughputs X 2 (L+R) Male XLR low-cut line level outputs X 2 (L+R)
18" neo, 4" voice coil	With any top reproducing above the X-over points	X-Over 80 - 120 Hz, Therm. prot. dynamic limiter, phase switch.
21"	Any top starting from the X-over points	Thermal & RMS protection soft peak limiting frequency cut, X-over link phase switch
2 X 18", 4" voice coil	Analog XLR, AES/EBU, RHAON, CobraNet	Internal Networkable RHAON DSP, Delay, EQ, HPF, LPF and Shelving Filters
18"	None	None
18"	Input: (1) XLR female, Link: (1) XLR male, pin 2 hot; Neutrik Powercon mains; (2) RJ45 network ports	96kHz user-adjustable DSP processing with TurboDrive software interface.
	(1) XLR female, Link: (1) XLR male, pin 2 hot; Neutrik Powercon; (2) RJ45 network port	
18"	Stereo line input and speaker level input, High pass balanced line output for mid/high satellite speaker connection	A pair of an integral 150Hz, 24dB/Oct crossovers Peak limiter that protects the amplifier and speaker from clipping 0∞, 180∞Phase switch Thermal, DC fault and short circuit protection Integral, preset limiter prevents clipping and distortion
	One balanced combination jack socket (XLR+1/4" phone socket) for input, one balanced and one 1/4" balanced line out	Four increment, 90 degreee phase select control., Selectable crossover point at 80-100-150-200Hz.