

21-inch Subwoofers

By GeorgePetersen

As with all things in life, sometimes we all need a little extra. And that approach certainly applies equally to sound systems. So if you want to add impact to your system, nothing quite does it like a 21-inch subwoofer.

Considered from a purely acoustical standpoint, it all comes down to size. A 21-inch cone represents a piston area of approximately 346 square inches — almost twice that of a 15-inch low-frequency driver and nearly 40% more than an 18-inch woofer. While other factors — such as motor efficiency, cone mass, maximum excursion (and certainly enclosure geometry) — are also important, when it comes to moving large volumes of air, the larger cones definitely have the edge.

We looked at the market for 21-inch subwoofer systems and found a wide array of products, ranging from single to quad subwoofers and both active and unpowered “add-your-own amp” models in a variety of sizes and styles to meet anyone’s budget and/or needs. Company URLs are included, for extending the “search for sub” on your own terms. To help out, most manufacturers offer downloadable technical data with more detailed information.

But before you order, make sure your roadies are in shape, as some of these boxes top out at nearly 500 pounds. Because when it comes to creating big bass, sometimes size really does matter.

Adamson T-21



Drivers: (2) 21-inch neodymium; Kevlar cone
Amplification: Passive
Response: 30 Hz to 193 Hz
Max SPL: 146.5 dB
Dimensions: 23 x 58 x 38" (HxWxD)
Weight: 309 pounds
Flyable: Yes
Notes: Includes AIR rigging system with captured flying hardware.

adamsonsystems.com

Carvin TRx2121



Driver: 21-inch
Amplification: Passive
Response: 20 Hz to 1.5k Hz
Max SPL: 133 dB
Dimensions: 23.5 x 23.5 x 23.5" (HxWxD)
Weight: 80 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Three top-mount 35mm pole cups

carvin.com

Fulcrum Acoustic US221



Drivers: (2) 21-inch neodymium
Amplification: Passive
Response: 28 Hz to 188 Hz
Max SPL: 143 dB
Dimensions: 22.4 x 35.1 x 30" (HxWxD)
Weight: 177 pounds
Flyable: Yes; 16 M10 points
Notes: Offered in 2- and 4-ohm versions.

fulcrum-acoustic.com

Martin Audio ASX



Driver: 21-inch
Amplification: Active; Class-D 8,500W peak
Response: 30 Hz to 150 Hz
Max SPL: 152 dB
Dimensions: 23.6 x 47.3 x 47.3" (HxWxD)
Weight: 353 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Hybrid folded horn/ported design with onboard DSP.

martin-audio.com

McCauley Sound M421



Drivers: (4) 21-inch neodymium
Amplification: Passive
Response: 20 Hz to 85 Hz
Max SPL: 143 dB
Dimensions: 23.1 x 74.4 x 44" (HxWxD)
Weight: 498 pounds
Flyable: Optional flyware
Notes: Isobaric design coupled to FEA-optimized acoustic transformer.

mccauley.com

Cerwin-Vega TS-42



Driver: 21-inch
Amplification: Passive
Response: 27 Hz to 215 Hz
Max SPL: 144 dB
Dimensions: 42.5 x 24 x 45" (HxWxD)
Weight: 228.5 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Folded horn design.

cerwin-vega.com

d&b Audiotechnik J-INFRA



Drivers: (3) 21-inch
Amplification: Passive
Response: 27 Hz to 70 Hz
Max SPL: 144 dB
Dimensions: 27 x 46.5 x 41" (HxWxD)
Weight: 335 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Cardioid design.

dbaudio.com

Danley Audio TH221



Drivers: (2) 21-inch
Amplification: Passive
Response: 18.5 Hz to 200 Hz
Max SPL: 144 dB
Dimensions: 28 x 60 x 60" (HxWxD)
Weight: 480 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Tapped-horn enclosure.

danleysoundlabs.com

Outline Lab 21



Driver: 21-inch neodymium
Amplification: Passive
Response: 23 Hz to 170 Hz
Max SPL: 145 dB
Dimensions: 27.6 x 43.3 x 31.5" (HxWxD)
Weight: 246.4 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Hybrid waveguide and indirect radiation design.

outline.it

Ramsdell Pro Audio
Chimera XS-21



Driver: 21-inch
Amplification: Passive
Response: 30 Hz to 400 Hz
Max SPL: 137 dB
Dimensions: 25 x 36 x 36" (HxWxD)
Weight: 230 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: 14.25-foot folded bass horn design.

ramsdellproaudio.com

RCF TTS56-A



Drivers: (2) 21-inch neodymium
Amplification: Active; dual 3,400W Class-D
Response: 30 Hz to 100 Hz
Max SPL: 145 dB
Dimensions: 21.7 x 43.3 x 37.4" (HxWxD)
Weight: 198 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: 96k Hz, 32-bit DSP processing with cardioid preset.

rcf.it

DAS Audio UX-221



Drivers: (2) 21-inch
Amplification: Passive
Response: 25 Hz to 100 Hz
Max SPL: 145 dB
Dimensions: 23.6 x 47.2 x 43.3" (HxWxD)
Weight: 286 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: 6,800W RMS power handling.

dasaudio.com

dB Technologies DVA-S1521N



Driver: 21-inch
Amplification: Active; 1,500W Class-D
Response: 30 Hz to 105 Hz
Max SPL: 139 dB
Dimensions: 32 x 23.1 x 39" (HxWxD)
Weight: 116 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Cardioid option with DSP.

dbtechnologies.com

EAW SB2001



Drivers: (2) 21-inch
Amplification: Passive
Response: 20 Hz to 190 Hz
Max SPL: 137 dB
Dimensions: 23 x 33.5 x 45" (HxWxD)
Weight: 200 pounds
Flyable: Yes
Notes: 16 suspension points for installs; optional quick-release rigging for touring.

eaw.com

Sound Bridge Acoustic
Labs 7221SWX



Drivers: (2) 21-inch neodymium
Amplification: Passive
Response: 30 Hz to 200 Hz
Max SPL: 146 dB
Dimensions: 24 x 38 x 45" (HxWxD)
Weight: 205 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Two units can stack to form large bass horn.

soundbridge.com

VTC Pro Audio NS21P



Driver: 21-inch
Amplification: Active; 2,400W continuous
Response: 32 Hz to 150 Hz
Max SPL: 135 dB
Dimensions: 36 x 25 x 31" (HxWxD)
Weight: 209 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Rear horn-loaded, tiltback design with wheels

vtcproaudio.com

Yorkville élite LS2100P



Driver: 21-inch neodymium
Amplification: Active; 2,400W continuous
Response: 32 Hz to 200 Hz
Max SPL: 144 dB
Dimensions: 35 x 25 x 31" (HxWxD)
Weight: 203 pounds
Flyable: No
Notes: Tiltback design with wheels and pole mount.

yorkville.com