

# Choosing the Right Subwoofer: It's About More Than Bass

A great home theater subwoofer should do more than make explosions loud. It should reproduce the **weight, pressure, speed and texture** contained in a movie soundtrack while remaining controlled enough that bass does not become boomy or disconnected from the rest of the system. The right choice depends on room size, available installation space, desired playback level, number of seats and, perhaps most importantly, whether you want bass that you primarily **hear, feel—or both**.

Today's premium subwoofers approach that challenge with remarkably different technologies –

...and we have them.

## WHICH SUBWOOFER IS RIGHT FOR YOUR THEATER?

ONE ROOM. ONE BUDGET. ENDLESS CHOICES.

Every subwoofer uses different technology to achieve great sound.  
The right choice depends on how you watch, what you feel, and what your room needs.

### PARADIGM SIGNATURE SUB 2

SEALED SUBWOOFER



- 6 x 10" drivers in hexagonal array
- Sealed, force-canceling design
- Up to 9,000W peak
- Deep extension down to 7Hz (in-room)

**BEST FOR:** Massive output and impact from one finished enclosure

### PARADIGM SFC12-SW

IN-WALL SUBWOOFER



- In-wall installation
- Dual 3.75" x 15.35" Carbon-X drivers
- Vibration-canceling design
- Powerful, discreet and architectural

**BEST FOR:** Discreet performance in luxury spaces and media rooms

### ASCENDO THE28

INFRASONIC SUBWOOFER



- 28" composite sandwich driver
- Infrasonic extension into single digits
- Shallow 30 cm enclosure
- Reference cinema bass you feel

**BEST FOR:** Reference theaters where infrasonic impact is the ultimate goal

### KEF KC92

COMPACT POWERED SUBWOOFER



- Dual 9" drivers (force-canceling)
- 1000W RMS (2000W peak)
- Frequency range 11Hz – 200Hz (-3dB)\*
- Music Integrity Engine® DSP

**BEST FOR:** Music-focused systems and refined, accurate bass

### PROCELLA AUDIO UNO SERIES

CINEMA SUBWOOFERS



- U12, U15, U18, U21, U24 models
- High output, low distortion
- Scalable for any room size
- Built for professional cinema performance

**BEST FOR:** Engineered multi-subwoofer systems and large dedicated theaters

### WISDOM AUDIO STS

REGENERATIVE TL SUBWOOFER



- Regenerative Transmission Line® technology
- Dual 15" long-throw woofers
- 16Hz – 125Hz ±3dB
- High output with speed and articulation

**BEST FOR:** Large theaters wanting power, clarity and musicality

### THINK ABOUT WHAT MATTERS MOST



**ROOM & INSTALL**  
In-wall, compact, freestanding or custom theater?



**BASS EXPERIENCE**  
Deep & subtle, powerful & dynamic or infrasonic impact?



**HOW YOU WATCH**  
Music, movies, gaming or all of the above?



**BUDGET & SCALABILITY**  
One sub or a complete bass system?

★ THERE'S NO UNIVERSAL "BEST" SUBWOOFER—ONLY THE BEST CHOICE FOR YOU.  
Match the technology to your room, your system, and the experience you want to feel.

\*Frequency range measured in anechoic conditions.

## Paradigm SFC12-SW — Powerful Bass Without Seeing the Subwoofer

Paradigm's **SFC12-SW** is designed for consumers who want serious theater bass without a large cabinet sitting in the room. Its in-wall design uses two proprietary **3.75" × 15.35" Carbon-X drivers in a vibration-canceling configuration**, reducing the mechanical energy transferred into the wall while allowing substantial cone area in a shallow architectural package. It can be powered by Paradigm's X-500 or SVX-1202 amplifiers.

**Best suited for:** luxury living spaces, media rooms and theaters where aesthetics are as important as performance. Multiple SFC12-SWs can also be incorporated when more output and better bass distribution are required.



## Paradigm Signature SUB 2 — Massive Output From a Self-Contained Subwoofer

At the opposite end of Paradigm's approach is the formidable **Signature SUB 2**. Instead of two drivers, it places **six 10-inch high-excursion drivers around a hexagonal sealed enclosure**, with opposing forces helping cancel cabinet vibration. Paradigm specifies extension down to 7 Hz in-room and, when connected to 240 volts, up to **4,500 watts RMS sustained and 9,000 watts dynamic peak**.

The advantage is enormous displacement and dynamic capability from one finished freestanding enclosure.

**Best suited for:** the enthusiast who wants extreme bass capability without constructing a dedicated baffle-wall or externally amplified cinema subwoofer system. For action, science fiction, disaster and blockbuster movies, the SUB 2 is about combining refinement with tremendous physical impact.



## ASCENDO THE28 — Enter the Infrasonic World

ASCENDO takes a very different approach with **THE28 SUB SQUARED PRO PASSIVE**. Its enormous 28-inch composite sandwich diaphragm uses multiple layers of Rohacell, with cone area ASCENDO says is comparable to a 32-inch conventional round woofer. More importantly, it is designed to reproduce **single-digit infrasonic frequencies** while still operating high enough to contribute above the traditional 120 Hz LFE range.

That makes THE28 particularly interesting because infrasonic bass changes the experience from simply hearing a soundtrack to **physically experiencing its pressure and movement**. Its shallow 30 cm enclosure is also designed with sophisticated bass arrays, Trinnov WaveForming and Dirac ART installations in mind.

**Best suited for:** dedicated reference theaters where the objective is to reproduce the full physical scale of modern cinema—including frequencies that are felt more than heard.



## KEF KC92 — Precision, Power and Control

KEF's **KC92** takes a compact, audiophile-oriented approach to deep bass. Two **9-inch drivers are mounted back-to-back in a force-cancelling configuration**, minimizing reactive forces and cabinet vibration while allowing the subwoofer to produce up to 110 dB from a relatively small sealed enclosure. Each driver is powered by its own 500-watt Class-D amplifier for a combined **1,000 watts RMS**, and KEF specifies a frequency response of **11 Hz–200 Hz (±3 dB)**.

The KC92 also incorporates KEF's **Music Integrity Engine® DSP**, including iBX Intelligent Bass Extension, which dynamically optimizes low-frequency performance at different listening levels. Its **P-Flex Surround** is designed to resist internal cabinet pressure while allowing the drivers to move precisely, helping deliver deeper extension, low distortion and improved transient control.

Rather than relying on an enormous enclosure or oversized driver, the KC92 combines **force cancellation, DSP, high excursion and substantial amplification** to produce deep, controlled bass from a compact footprint. It is equally comfortable adding musical weight to a two-channel system or delivering powerful low-frequency effects in a refined home theater.

**Best suited for:** music-focused media rooms and premium home theaters where **accuracy, compact size, deep extension, transient control and seamless integration** are priorities, especially for owners who want impressive low-frequency performance without placing a massive subwoofer enclosure in the room.



## Procella UNO — Build the Bass System Around the Room

Procella's new **UNO Series** is less about choosing one ultimate subwoofer and more about engineering the correct low-frequency system. The range includes **U12, U15, U18, U21 and U24 models**, all developed around a common performance philosophy. Procella specifically designed the series so systems can scale from a smaller media room to arrays of multiple large subwoofers while maintaining similar tonal balance, transient response and decay characteristics.

Its cinema heritage also emphasizes sustained reference-level output, low distortion and integration behind screens, within baffle walls or in dedicated low-frequency chambers.

**Best suited for:** dedicated theaters where the designer wants to **engineer bass coverage for the entire room**, rather than simply place one powerful subwoofer in a corner.

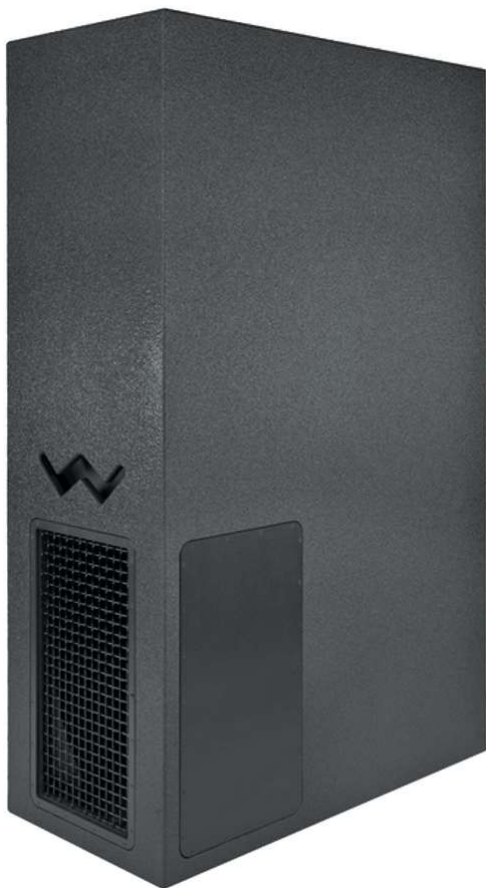


## Wisdom Audio STS — Regenerative Transmission Line Bass

Wisdom Audio's **STS** uses yet another approach: the company's patented **Regenerative Transmission Line**® technology. Rather than relying solely on a traditional sealed or vented enclosure, Wisdom's RTL architecture uses a transmission-line system intended to combine high efficiency, extended response and low distortion. The STS employs two custom long-throw 15-inch woofers, offers 101 dB sensitivity and is specified from 16 Hz to 125 Hz  $\pm 3$  dB, with Wisdom claiming output capability reaching 130 dB at 20 Hz.

It can also be installed freestanding, behind a screen or baffle wall, or remotely with its output vented into the theater through optional port arrangements.

**Best suited for:** large, high-performance theaters where the owner wants **cinematic output combined with articulate, fast and musically accurate bass**, particularly when paired with Wisdom's planar magnetic loudspeakers.



## So Which Subwoofer Is Best?

There is no single correct answer. With so many different engineering approaches, the better question is: **what kind of bass experience does your theater need?**

Choose **Paradigm SFC12-SW** when discreet architectural integration and hidden bass performance are the priorities. Choose **KEF KC92** when you want **compact size, deep extension, force-cancelling control and refined musical accuracy** from a powerful self-contained subwoofer. Choose **Paradigm Signature SUB 2** when the goal is enormous output and deep bass from a premium freestanding enclosure. Choose **Procella UNO** when you want a scalable, professionally engineered multi-subwoofer system designed around the size and demands of the theater. Choose **Wisdom Audio STS** when high-output cinematic bass needs to retain speed, articulation and musical refinement and choose **ASCENDO THE28** when the objective reaches beyond conventional low bass into the **single-digit infrasonic region, where the soundtrack becomes a physical experience as much as an audible one.**

Ultimately, a subwoofer should not be selected simply by driver diameter, amplifier wattage or the lowest number printed on a specification sheet. **Match the technology to the room, installation, listening habits and experience you want.** When a movie soundtrack reaches its deepest frequencies, the best subwoofer is the one that delivers the right combination of control, impact and immersion for your theater—because great bass should not simply be heard. **It should be felt.**



## The Final Step: Calibration and Room Acoustics

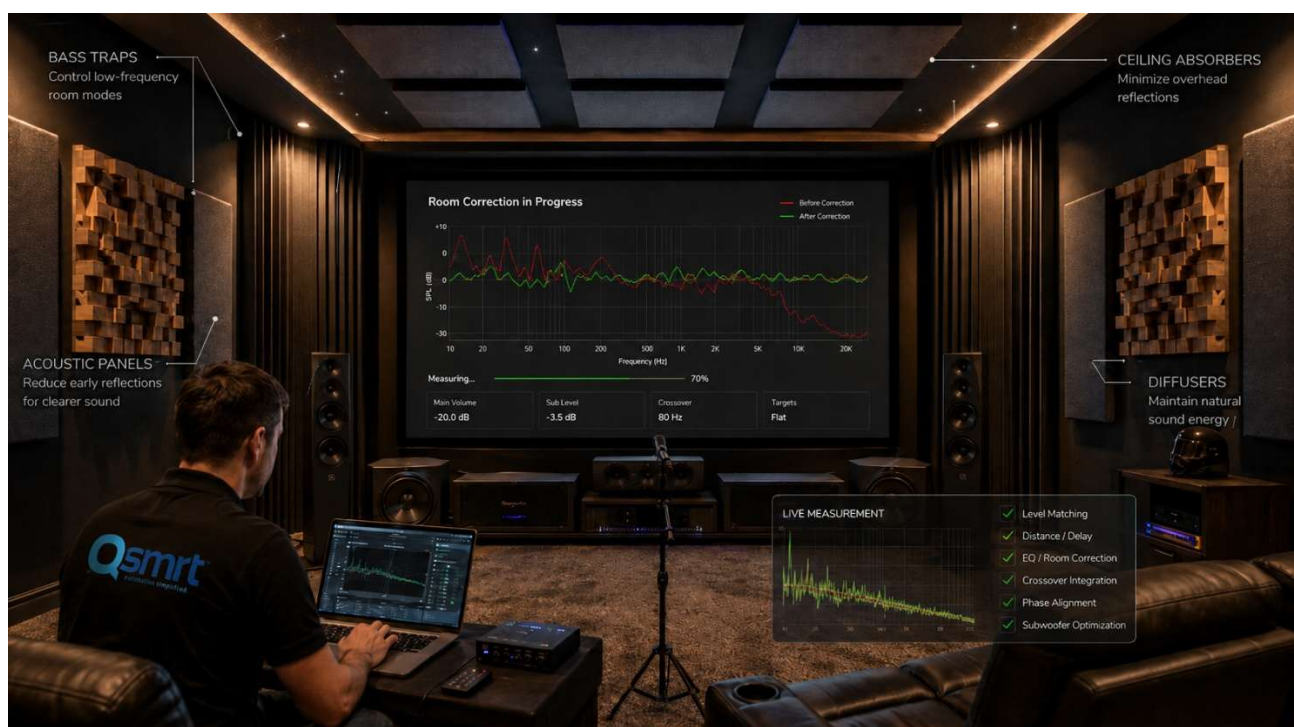
No matter which subwoofer technology you choose, the final—and often most important—step is **proper calibration and acoustic treatment of the room**. Even the finest subwoofer cannot perform at its best if it is not correctly integrated with the space and the rest of the audio system.

Subwoofer placement, crossover settings, phase, delay, equalization and output level should all be adjusted so the bass works **with the room rather than against it**. Just as important, acoustic treatments such as **bass traps, broadband absorbers and strategically placed wall or ceiling panels** can help control low-frequency buildup, reduce reflections and improve clarity throughout the listening area.

Bass traps are especially useful for reducing excessive low-frequency energy that tends to accumulate in corners and along room boundaries, while panel absorbers can help control reflections that affect imaging, dialogue clarity and overall tonal balance. When properly designed, these treatments can make the difference between bass that sounds boomy and uneven and bass that feels **tight, powerful and controlled**.

Most importantly, calibration should not be based solely on measurements. The system should also be tuned to **your personal enjoyment standards**. Some listeners prefer bass that is extremely neutral and precise, while others enjoy additional impact and physical energy during movie playback. A properly designed theater can respect the acoustics of the room while still being tailored to the way you like to experience movies and music.

Whichever subwoofer you choose, remember: **the subwoofer creates the potential, but proper placement, room treatment, system integration and calibration unlock its true performance**. The best bass is not simply the deepest or loudest—it is the bass that sounds natural, feels convincing and makes your theater more enjoyable every time the lights go down.



## The Future of Bass: Smarter Rooms, Smarter Subwoofers

The future of home-theater bass is moving beyond simply installing a single large subwoofer.

Modern theaters increasingly use **multiple strategically positioned subwoofers, advanced room correction, acoustic treatments and wave-forming technology** to control how low frequencies behave throughout the room.

Instead of one seat receiving great bass while another experiences peaks or dead spots, properly engineered multi-subwoofer systems can create smoother, more consistent bass across the entire seating area. Technologies such as **WaveForming** from Trinnov and **Dirac Live Bass Control (DLBC)** and **Active Room Treatment (ART)** from Dirac, take this further by coordinating multiple subwoofers to actively control low-frequency energy and reduce unwanted room interactions.

Bass traps, absorptive panels and thoughtful theater construction remain equally important. Combined with sophisticated DSP, measurement and calibration, tomorrow's theater will treat the **room and subwoofers as one integrated acoustic system**—delivering deeper, cleaner and more physically immersive bass to every seat.

