

SUBSONIC X SERIES HOME THEATRE SPEAKER SYSTEM



FEATURES

- Thermal Polyswitch protection
- Complex Field Dispersion
- Magnetically shielded drivers
- Gold binding posts
- Four wall bracing in cabinets

PROS

- Sounds very good indeed
- Great value for money
- Thermal Polyswitch protection
- Magnetic shielding
- Australian made product

CONS

- Center and rear in black finish only

SPECS

Subsonic XM 2
Frequency Response: 36Hz - 22kHz +/- 3db
Nominal Impedance: 6 Ohms
Recommended Amplifier Power: 25W - 125W

Subsonic XC 2
Frequency Response: 47Hz - 22KHz +/- 3db
Nominal Impedance: 6 Ohms
Recommended Amplifier Power: 25W - 100W

Subsonic XR 2
Frequency Response: 85Hz - 22KHz +/- 3db
Nominal Impedance: 8 Ohms
Recommended Amplifier Power: 15W - 65W

DISTRIBUTOR

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RATINGS

Performance: 8/10
Build quality: 7.5/10
Operation: 8/10
Features: 8/10
Value: 9.5/10

If you haven't heard much about SuBsonic it could be because (as their brochure succinctly says) "we put more money into building a better product and less money into crapping on about it". The people at SuBsonic design and manufacture speakers that they're proud of and believe are the best products at every price point. And for those of you who don't already know, SuBsonic is an Australian company and has won eight industry awards in the past five years.

They may not "crap on" about their products, but they've still created a reputation in the industry with their innovative Polymorphic technology. The new X series of surround sound speakers are promising to continue the reputation for design and construction excellence and to boldly go where no one has gone before in the realm of value for money.

SuBsonic X speakers use the same drivers as the (higher priced) Polymorphic series of speakers. With the X series it's possible to own a high quality home theatre system that's still in an entry-level price range.

There are three main speaker models, two models of centre, two rear speaker choices and a subwoofer in the range. The system reviewed here uses twin XM 2 main speakers (\$1,199), the XC 2 centre speaker (\$499), twin XR 2 rear speakers (\$499), and we used the XS 2 subwoofer (\$799) for much of the home theatre listening.

The entire range of X speakers boasts a bass reproduction excellence that's expected from more expensive speakers. Also, it's a series that uses the design philosophy from the company's PM Series without the room optimisation technology on board.

Every speaker in this system has magnetic shielding of the drivers to stop interference from and with each other and with other electrical equipment like a television. The advantage of this is that they are easier to position and won't affect colour repro on your television. Versatility here.

For protection

from accidental damage caused by playing speakers at high volume levels, a "thermal polyswitch" automatically reduces the strength of the signal to the speakers. The "polyswitch" will automatically reset after the volume has been manually turned down. Good protection.

All of the X range main speakers are built using what SuBsonic designers consider high quality state-of-the-art components. They are bi-wired, have gold connectors and heavy duty cabling. The cabinets are braced through all four walls for extra rigidity so they won't add distortion effects to sound — either when playing music or a movie sound track. Obvious attention to fine detail.

The XM 2 is the middle of the range of X main speakers. It's a bass reflex, floor standing main speaker with three drivers: two 160mm woofers and a 25mm soft dome tweeter. The available finishes are either black or mahogany. Despite the cost, it's a substantial speaker indeed.

According to SuBsonic literature, centre speakers produce 70 percent of the home cinema information. To better convey this wealth of information, X series centre speakers design is similar to a phase array in that it produces sound that's evenly dispersed over a wide area.

The "Complex Field Dispersion" (CFD) feature claims to create a "sound window" that's wider and higher than other centre channels. The advantage is more choice in seating and speaker placement and much better enjoyment factor from movies. The centre speaker can be above or below the screen with equal effect.

The XC 2 centre speakers are bass reflex design for extending the low sounds. The cabinet contains two 127mm

woofers and two 25 mm tweeters. It comes in a black finish.

To really complete the home cinema experience, SuBsonic has incorporated all its quality components and design and construction fea-

tures into the rear speakers. They contain the same magnetically shielded woofers and tweeters as in the main and centre speakers with the obvious benefits of quality and voice matching (which improves the sonic transition of surround effects).

The XR 2 rear speakers are lightweight (4Kg) and designed for wall mounting. They are available in black.

Under test, the system was immediately engaging and lived up to the claim of a natural, involving and, where appropriate, exciting sound. There was no harshness, boominess, honkiness or edginess to the sound. Quite the opposite in fact, because the system was natural and very easy to live with while maintaining required dynamism. It also conveyed excellent impact both when movie soundtracks or music was played.

The movement of sound across the front and from front to back was quite seamless. One of the things I really liked about the rear speakers was their subtle and discreet addition to the sound track. All the background and surrounding sounds were easy to hear, without detracting from the main action (the centre channel speaker really helped here).

This system is well suited to the average size lounge room. It could struggle a bit in a big room, but then you just option up to the bigger system, or maybe a subwoofer like the XS-2, which matches the system, to get the bass volume required.

In music mode the front system does a great job. Performances with Mary Black and Placido Domingo were quite honest and natural and if you want to blast out Tea Party or Radiohead it'll do it with a minimum of added distortion.

The X-Series features the expertise associated with developing Polymorphic technology with the overall expense of the product. It's obvious the X-2 system offers some of the best value (if not the best) in its area of the market. The products are exceptionally well made and don't even need to hide their lower cost design goals — because you wouldn't know it anyway.

A solid, well made, well performing system. My suggestion is to add the subwoofer, it hugely enhances the home theatre effect and adds to the enjoyment without adding too much to the price.

— Carol Mazur

