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Subject: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Marc321](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2012 19:23:37 GMT  
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With the current delay of JBL 2226H & AE woofers. Is there another woofer out there that could possibly be on par with these, that could be used for 4pi? B&C, BMS, Fatial etc,etc.  
I'm thinking worse case scenario. Or will JBL's become regularly available again. I realize this must put you in a difficult position. Just wondering if there is a plan B for the best performing 4pi design.

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2012 21:22:32 GMT  
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Short answer, no. There is no drop-in replacement that is as good.

If you're in a hurry, I might suggest looking for used 2226 drivers. One of the nice things about JBL is a reconed speaker is 100% as good as new, provided you use a genuine OEM recone kit.

The driver that is closest in performance and quality is probably the Acoustic Elegance TD15M, which is an excellent part. But it would require a crossover redesign, as has been discussed here

time is no better, so I'm not really on board with taking that approach.

I know it is difficult to wait, but the truth is that whether you plan on getting the top-of-the-line

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Marc321](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2012 22:16:07 GMT  
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Thats makes it easy then since I am not in a huge rush. Now that I know what I want I'll just have to pick away at it from the top down & start with the horns & B&C units. Hopefully the JBL thing will work out soon. Thanks.

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Wed, 11 Jan 2012 16:31:51 GMT  
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Wayne,

Is the Eminence Omega 15 no longer on the list for 4-Pi drivers? I still have Pi info I printed back in 2002 and the Omega 15 was listed as a option back then.

marc321 - I have a pair of JBL 2225H's if you are looking at JBL options. PM me thru this forum mail if interested.

Regards, Ron

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 11 Jan 2012 20:45:08 GMT  
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Yes, the Omega 15 is still one of the supported drivers. The 2226 is the upgrade option, but it takes a while to get these days.

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Thu, 12 Jan 2012 04:02:00 GMT  
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Why the delay on 2226s? They switched production to China, right? Trouble ramping up or is there a 2227, 8 or 9 that's more in demand?

And while I'm thinking about it, was the 2001, or was it '02?, JBL Tent Sale the greatest thing the DIY community ever got or what? What'd we pay for the 4648 cabinet with two! 2226Js? \$250? And I think I recall freight was free?

I wonder if now, ten years later it wouldn't be in Harman's interest to have another gonzo promotion?

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 12 Jan 2012 15:36:23 GMT  
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JBL closed the Northridge plant that made 2226 drivers last July. They moved production to Tijuana, Mexico. My suspicion is they will need to work through some bugs, and are probably experiencing some rejects as they ramp up production. Note, however, that this plant has been running for decades making JBL products, and in fact, made the 2245 before production ended. So it's not like the facilities and staff are new to driver manufacturing.

I don't like the move, of course, but I think probably they will inspect the parts pretty thoroughly to ensure quality remains high. Hopefully once they get going, it will be back to business as usual. We'll see.

JBL Northridge Plant Closure

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Marc321](#) on Thu, 12 Jan 2012 16:40:34 GMT  
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Where would be the best place to source re-coned 2226H drivers. Are they really as good as brand new?

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 12 Jan 2012 19:30:09 GMT  
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Yes, provided the basket isn't beat to death, and even then - as long as the magnet is good and the gap isn't deformed, whatever wear and tear you might see is largely cosmetic. Honestly, even if the cone and/or voice coil are toast the basket is usually in great shape. So when the OEM recone kit is used for repair, the speaker is 100% as good as new.

Check with David Miller at Speakerworks. He'll get you fixed up.

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [BeOfService](#) on Sat, 14 Jan 2012 16:57:44 GMT  
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Allow me to encourage the purchase of 2226 woofers on the used market (as somebody suggested above). There is of course some risk, as with purchasing baskets with a plan to recone. However, the upside opportunity is huge. Through careful shopping on CL here in my major metro area I was able to get a pair for under \$100 each.

Right now it looks like good used 2226 drivers cost about \$150 each on ebay with some going for \$200. I think the price has gone up due to the shortage, as I'm pretty sure they went for around \$125 this past summer. Compared with the retail price of about \$500 each that is still very attractive.

I also think the recone option is very attractive. Baskets are cheap on the used market - \$20. With new (unavailable) units retailing for \$500, you can afford the best recone you can find and still save hundreds of dollars.

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One more comment: I believe the 2225 was the precursor to the 2226, but the specs are not quite the same. Because of those somewhat subtle differences I would not assume you could swap them directly into one of Wayne's designs and get the same results as the 2226. Maybe they are close enough, but I'd want to explore that further.

Gary

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 14 Jan 2012 18:03:24 GMT

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I agree with everything you've said. I get really good deals on JBL drivers, but even though my prices are good I'm still stuck with slow availability. So if you don't want to wait, buying used seems to be a good alternative.

I do want to reiterate a warning though. Don't skimp on the recone kit. There are lots of inexpensive recone kits available but stay with the genuine JBL parts. They're only about a hundred bucks and change, so even with labor, you're looking at under \$200 for a good recone job. If you start off with a \$100 basket, that gives you a great driver at a pretty decent price. As long as the basket isn't beat up, the new recone makes the driver pretty much as good as new.

Honestly, I'd pay \$100 for a pair of baskets that I knew were good before I'd pay \$200 for working 2226 drivers, unless I knew the seller very well and trusted them. It's too easy to get cheap recone kits and some are hard to tell just from looking at them. So beware used drivers - Buy 'em just for the baskets and recone them.

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability

Posted by [Marc321](#) on Sat, 14 Jan 2012 19:13:20 GMT

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Excellent information. Before this I never would have considered this as an option.

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 06 Sep 2012 18:35:49 GMT

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JBL 2226H woofers are back in production.

delivery of a truckload of woofers next week and will be shipping soon after. I expect to fill all backorders with this shipment. We have everything else staged for all orders waiting on 2226H midwoofers. So ETA to your door is approximately September 20th.

Hopefully, this brings the 2226H shortage to an end.

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Subject: Re: JBL 2226H availability  
Posted by [Maxjr](#) on Fri, 07 Sep 2012 09:46:56 GMT  
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That's excellent news! The 2226 is a fantastic driver and I'm glad to hear it's back in production.

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