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Subject: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Mon, 10 Jun 2019 18:59:20 GMT  
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Hi Wayne,

Eminence has confirmed that the 4012HO has been discontinued due to lack of demand and there isn't a pair left anywhere in Europe. Can you recommend an alternative to go with the DE250 in the Three Pi?

I don't see another 12" Eminence with shorting rings and the AE TD12Ms are nearly \$1000 a pair shipped to the UK (we have to add 20% VAT to imports) which is a bit much.

I was looking at the Faital PRO 12FH520 which has a similar set of TS parameters (and shorting rings for lower mid-range distortion (it also has a lower LE to start with)) or does it need to have a rising response around 1-2 kHz?

Thanks in advance

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#### File Attachments

1) [12FH520\\_data\\_sheet.png](#), downloaded 394 times

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2019 14:05:39 GMT  
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The problem is that without a complete test set, usually accompanied by slight crossover changes to adapt the new driver, we cannot really know how well any new driver will perform. So at this time, I cannot suggest an alternative upgrade path.

The 12FH520 looks like a great driver, but its electro-mechanical specs aren't right for this application. I was actually looking at its brother, the 12FH530, which is very similar in most respects. But it isn't right for this application either. So I'm looking at other drivers, including those from B&C, BMS and Faital. I'm leaning towards the B&C 12PLB100 right now.

Stay tuned! 8)

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Wed, 12 Jun 2019 16:41:20 GMT

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Thanks, Wayne, would that be the 12MH32 by any chance?

I'll hold off until you've reported back. Do you have a rough timescale? No pressure :)

At the risk of muddying the waters, a couple more I came across that look decent:

Faital Pro 12FH530 - The ferrite version of the 520 which seems to have a more extended midrange

Beyma 12P80NdV2 - no shorting rings but huge 25 Bl motor and flat on-axis response out to 3KHz. The V1 had very low published distortion curves.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 12 Jun 2019 17:11:53 GMT

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I'm looking at offerings from all manufacturers.

My main priorities are to have the right electro-mechanical parameters to maintain the same efficiency and reasonably deep bass response, to have a shorting ring for low distortion and to have a well-damped cone to provide smooth midrange.

The plan is to have a completed design with a new midwoofer offering by the end of the summer.

loudspeaker.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life

Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Wed, 12 Jun 2019 18:34:54 GMT

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Fantastic. I'll get the cabinets ready (sans midwoofer cutout).

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life

Posted by [rkeman](#) on Sun, 16 Jun 2019 01:24:00 GMT

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If a 3Pi redesign is on tap, is it worth considering throwing in the new B&C DE360 ring radiator compression driver for the tweeter section? It looks very interesting and costs less than the DE250.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 16 Jun 2019 14:59:12 GMT  
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Could be!

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Tue, 18 Jun 2019 19:40:57 GMT  
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Wayne Parham wrote on Wed, 12 June 2019 13:11 It will not be a total cabinet redesign - Just a

That would seem better/easier. Could this mean only changing the port size dimensions?

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 18 Jun 2019 19:54:22 GMT  
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now-obsolete Definimax 4012HO.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Fri, 21 Jun 2019 00:15:29 GMT  
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B&C 12PLB100 doesn't seem to be widely available. Most dealers are out of stock with one quoting 9-11 week lead time which might suggest EOL, possibly? Only seems to have a front gasket. Rear of baffle mounting only?

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 21 Jun 2019 21:19:55 GMT  
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Mudshark wrote on Thu, 20 June 2019 19:15B&C 12PLB100 doesn't seem to be widely available. Most dealers are out of stock with one quoting 9-11 week lead time which might suggest EOL, possibly? Only seems to have a front gasket. Rear of baffle mounting only?

Could be. I'm not having any trouble finding the driver in stock, but I'll definitely ask about future plans and availability.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Symphonimind](#) on Tue, 25 Jun 2019 14:08:07 GMT  
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Dear Wayne,  
I have built a pair of 3Pi (4012HO + DE250 + H290C). They sound really great in flushmounted condition. It is sad that 4012HO is no longer available.

But this is also an opportunity for big changes. And this is my request (actually, it is my wish):

Add a medium price option: Eminence DELTA PRO 12A  
Spec sheet: [https://www.eminence.com/pdf/Delta\\_Pro\\_12A.pdf](https://www.eminence.com/pdf/Delta_Pro_12A.pdf)  
This driver is REALLY good for the money. It is not much expensive than the default Delta 12LFA option. However, the sound is miles better! The mid is really smooth and crystal clear. The bass transient is really fast, dry and much tighter. THD is also really good for the price.

I have tested both Delta 12LFA and Delta Pro 12A, the latter destroyed Delta 12LFA in every single way. Delta Pro 12A can also be tuned to play exceptionally good down to 40Hz.

Please, please add Delta Pro 12A into 3Pi's optional driver list in the plan. This driver is really a gem in 100-200\$ 12" woofer.

Thank you a lot for your hardwork!  
Edwards

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 25 Jun 2019 14:36:43 GMT  
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chosen. I chose the Definimax 4012HO because of its shorting ring. My upgrade driver has always been one with a shorting ring. But you're right that the Delta 12 Pro driver could be considered as an upgrade too.

Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Symphonimind](#) on Tue, 25 Jun 2019 15:04:43 GMT  
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having an EBS alignment like the other drivers I've chosen. I chose the Definimax 4012HO because of its shorting ring. My upgrade driver has always been one with a shorting ring. But you're right that the Delta 12 Pro driver could be considered as an upgrade too.

Thank you a lot for your consideration. I have tested many Eminence drivers (luckily, I live near a Eminence distributor) and this is my list of best performing 12" EMI woofer:

1. DELTA PRO 12A: Best Bang for Buck. High power handling, really good LF transient and mid reproduction. The frequency response is almost ruler flat for a PA driver.
2. 4012HO: Excellent Performer. Yeah, shorting ring does magic to reduce THD, I love every bits of it. However, now, it is belong to the past. I am happy that I owned 1 pair in my beloved 3Pi.
3. 3012HO: Excellent High Output woofer. It has low THD (if 3rd harmonic is lower, it will be one of the best 12"s ever made) and really smooth frequency response. It also has lighter MMS than 4012HO, together with relatively high BL motor, high Xmax (6.2mm), extremely high sensitivity (>100dB). This is really unique driver. I have succeed with it in my 2x12 bass cabinet. Sadly, it does not have shorting rings. Thus, I think Delta Pro 12A is better mid-priced option because it is much cheaper and also perform really well.

3012HO Measurement

So, as I understand, will we have next 2 woofers in 3Pi Plan's driver list (one is Delta Pro 12A for mid-priced upgrade over Delta 12LFA, the other one is a high-end 12" woofer)?

I can't wait for the day you add Delta Pro 12A into the list. Many friends of mine also like that option a lot because it fits their bill.

And the last question:

How about an upgrade HF driver option with PSD2013 compression driver? BC DE250 is only a little bit higher priced, however, PSD2013 is much easier to grab in many places over the world.

Thank you Wayne.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 25 Jun 2019 19:01:32 GMT  
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You can use the Eminence PSD2013-8 instead of the PSD2002-8 if you want. It's a little more sensitive so use the same crossover configuration as the DE250. I tested it a few years back and found it to be quite satisfactory. We don't offer it as an upgrade option though.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Tue, 25 Jun 2019 23:58:26 GMT  
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If its a matter of finding an upgraded 12" mid woofer with a shorting ring, I thought the 2206H would have been an early consideration?

If its anything like its big brother....

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Symphonimind](#) on Wed, 26 Jun 2019 01:53:35 GMT  
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Wayne Parham wrote on Tue, 25 June 2019 14:01 You can use the Eminence PSD2013-8 instead of the PSD2002-8 if you want. It's a little more sensitive so use the same crossover configuration as the DE250. I tested it a few years back and found it to be quite satisfactory. We don't offer it as an upgrade option though.

Thank you very much. I got it. I think Delta Pro 12A + PSD2013 will be extremely good mid-priced 3Pi option for every one.

Ed.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Wed, 26 Jun 2019 08:18:09 GMT  
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They're not available in Europe through official distribution AFAIK. US Speaker and Parts Express in the US advertise them at \$450 ea. With shipping and taxes that works out at the equivalent of \$1170/pr imported into the UK compared with \$540/pr for the 4012H when they were last available. US buyers don't have to pay our 20% sales tax (VAT), of course.

The current premium option supported by the crossover is the Acoustic Elegance TD12S which is almost \$1000/pr with shipping and taxes. The hope is to find something better than the entry-level Delta 12 for around the price of the 4012HO give or take \$100 or so.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Tue, 03 Sep 2019 17:07:15 GMT  
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Hi Wayne,

Any news on the replacement driver?

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 03 Sep 2019 21:02:42 GMT

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I'm not ready to make an announcement, but I can give a status update.

I have a pair of Eminence Delta Pro 12A woofers and a pair of B&C 12PLB100 woofers here to test with.

Both look like they will work very well from modeling and from free-air measurements.

But when I went to install the 12PLB100 into my cabinet to test with a couple weekends ago, I realized it wouldn't fit. So I put off testing for a couple weeks. I had lots of projects going (and still do) so the fail-to-fit problem pushed me to work on something else.

The cabinet I'm using has been routed for flush fit of a driver with 12-3/8" basket diameter, which is what the Eminence drivers have. The 12PLB100 has outside diameter of 12-1/2" so I need to have the cabinet routed to fit.

I could also use another test cabinet I have in storage to test with. So one way or the other, my plans are to test this coming weekend.

I could have tested the Delta Pro 12 first. And I may still do that. But I really want to focus on the B&C driver 'cause it has a shorting ring.

Then again, the Delta Pro 12 will be a great driver too. I think you were right to suggest it, and it was your prompting that made me reconsider it. It will be a lot like the Omega 15A option in the

I am optimistic about both the 12PLB100 and the Delta Pro 12 because they both have the right characteristics. There are three basic requirements over and above the obvious desire for good build quality.

The first and the second are inter-related, being that the electro-mechanical parameters must provide specific sensitivity and EBS alignment in this cabinet. Typically, drivers built with the motor strength and suspension stiffness to get the alignment we're after also provide the sensitivity we need for this kind of speaker. But some drivers don't work in this design, and produce an underdamped curve.

What we need is an EBS alignment that provides extended bass without any peaks, and it dove-tails perfectly with the flanking sub approach. Between baffle step and the cabinet alignment, using the flanking subs act as a 2.5-way system that offers flat amplitude response

with deep bass extension. It also smoothes the self-interference notches and higher-frequency room modes.

So this alignment is a perfect natural mating for flanking subs and multiple subs. But it also sounds great without subs, because even though the response below 100Hz falls off, it is only slight and there is still usable response way down to 30Hz.

In addition to the electro-mechanical properties, we have a requirement of the cone to be well damped, so that it is smooth above 1kHz. Many drivers - even some that are of high quality - do not have cones with sufficient internal damping to prevent cone flex and they get ragged above 650Hz. This can't be determined by electro-mechanical specifications or models, but it can be seen in free-air response measurements, even without the cabinet.

Both drivers satisfy each of these requirements and should prove to sound very good in the three may perform perfectly using the same crossover components as the Definimax did. Or they may require minor changes in component values in the low-pass filter or sometimes just a nudge of the Zobel capacitor.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Symphonimind](#) on Wed, 04 Sep 2019 04:11:00 GMT  
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Thank you very much for consideration regarding my suggestion with Delta Pro 12A as low cost alternative choice for 3Pi. I am looking forward to hearing from you with appropriate changes in crossover and guidances.

Best regards,  
Edward.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Wed, 04 Sep 2019 20:43:03 GMT  
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Thanks for the detailed reply, Wayne.

As I was itching to get going, over the summer I built the Three Pi with the Delta 12LFA as a stop gap and whilst it's very nice I can't help feeling that there are further improvements to be had.

It's easy enough to find the centre again for re-routing the rebate (already had to do it once after realising the rebate was slightly too tight after I'd already removed the centre cutout) so I don't mind a larger diameter driver if it has better performance.

Thanks to Symphonimind for suggesting the Delta Pro 12A which I'm sure is an substantial



improvement. I don't mind paying a bit more for the B&C if it's significantly better. If there's any way you can help in quantifying the difference in sound quality between the two to help in making a choice it would be much appreciated.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Symphonimind](#) on Thu, 05 Sep 2019 02:55:15 GMT  
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Dear Mudshark,  
Thank you for sharing your experience with 3Pi Delta12LFA version. Which compression driver did you select? Is it PSD2002?

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mabob](#) on Thu, 05 Sep 2019 11:15:37 GMT  
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Hello

Following this one very closely. Both speakers are widely available in Europe and quite inexpensive. Even the B&C which can be a expensive brand, can be found below 200€ here.

This would give me the perfect upgrade path, by using existing Delta 12LFA for flanking subs and moving on to 6Pi cornerhorns in the future.

Thanks Wayne for keeping up the great work!

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Thu, 05 Sep 2019 13:24:58 GMT  
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@ Symphonimind:

I'm using the B&C DE250 (£83 (€91) ea in the UK including VAT (\$83 without tax). I always knew I'd want to upgrade the compression driver so I went straight for the top option. The PSD2002 is £62 here so not much of a price difference in the context of a €800 build.

I found the top end to be a little laid back with the default xover options so I'm using 22R/15R for R1/R2 (C1 omitted) which adds a bit more sparkle and gives a flat response through the xover region with a slight rising response starting at 10 kHz which I can't hear anyway as my hearing pretty much stops at 11 kHz.

I found that the H290C waveguide rings like a bell when you hold it by the flange and rap it with

your knuckle so I damped the two larger sides with triangles of 5mm Dedshete and it's now completely inert, so that's my DE250 setup.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Symphonimind](#) on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 03:16:28 GMT  
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Mudshark wrote on Thu, 05 September 2019 08:24@ Symphonimind:

I'm using the B&C DE250 (£83 (€91) ea in the UK including VAT (\$83 without tax). I always knew I'd want to upgrade the compression driver so I went straight for the top option. The PSD2002 is £62 here so not much of a price difference in the context of a €800 build.

I found the top end to be a little laid back with the default xover options so I'm using 22R/15R for R1/R2 (C1 omitted) which adds a bit more sparkle and gives a flat response through the xover region with a slight rising response starting at 10 kHz which I can't hear anyway as my hearing pretty much stops at 11 kHz.

I found that the H290C waveguide rings like a bell when you hold it by the flange and rap it with your knuckle so I damped the two larger sides with triangles of 5mm Dedshete and it's now completely inert, so that's my DE250 setup.

Thank you a lot. I will try to damp my existing 3Pi (De250+4012HO) to see if it can make the mid and high smoother.

Edward.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 14:41:53 GMT  
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Mudshark wrote on Wed, 04 September 2019 15:43 Thanks to Symphonimind for suggesting the Delta Pro 12A which I'm sure is a substantial improvement. I don't mind paying a bit more for the B&C if it's significantly better. If there's any way you can help in quantifying the difference in sound quality between the two to help in making a choice it would be much appreciated.

See the following link:

Magnet structures

This shows what shorting rings do and what you can expect from them.

Mudshark wrote on Thu, 05 September 2019 08:24I found that the H290C waveguide rings like a bell when you hold it by the flange and rap it with your knuckle so I damped the two larger sides with triangles of 5mm Dedshete and it's now completely inert, so that's my DE250 setup.

Of course there is never any harm covering the waveguide with damping material, but the bell mode of the H290C is well below the passband of the device, being approximately 420Hz. And the amplitude is very low when the waveguide is mounted in the cabinet.

It's kind of like standing waves in a small subwoofer cabinet - They line up at high frequencies, above those which are presented to the cabinet. So but it never hurts to add fiberglass insulation inside a subwoofer and it also sure can't hurt to cover a waveguide with plumbers putter or other damping material to reduce the bell mode even lower than it already is.

### Unmounted H290C 420Hz Bell Mode

What I've found is the amplitude of the 420Hz mode of the H290C drops considerably when it is mounted on the baffle. It sort of sounds like the frequency drops too, because it sounds so muffled. But in fact, the frequency is about the same. Mounted or unmounted, the bell mode is approximately 420Hz. But the amplitude drops considerably when mounted.

So the excitation frequencies are over an octave above the bell mode. Of course, it "lives" in the same cabinet as the midwoofer, which does generate 420Hz signals. So it is good that the bell mode amplitude is low when mounted. And I don't see any anomalies in the loudspeaker's response chart around 420Hz, so the bell mode is undetectable and inaudible. But your damping material will decrease bell mode amplitude even further.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 22:15:39 GMT  
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I spent a few hours today evaluating the Delta Pro 12 and found it to be a good drop-in candidate. So those of you that were interested in this driver - You can pull the trigger.

I was going to measure the 12PLB100 first, but the interest here for the Delta Pro 12 pushed me to measure it first. That and the fact that I didn't have to run the router to get it to fit.

The frequency response looks almost exactly like the Definimax 4012HO using the same crossover components. The Delta Pro 12 almost looks like it is a Definimax minus the shorting ring. The cones are a little different, but response is smooth between 600Hz and 1.2kHz, so the cone is well damped. The basket is the same and the magnet looks the same from the outside, although it's different internally. Still, all-in-all, I'd say the Delta Pro 12 is very much like a Definimax 4012HO sans Faraday ring. So for those that are wanting the Delta Pro 12, use the crossover components shown on the schematic for the Definimax.

I used the ICD in the WTPro system to evaluate the driver with various crossover topologies. Then I ran it with the same physical crossover used for the Definimax 4012HO. The main thing I was looking for was clean on-axis response and vertical nulls in the right positions, which are approximately +/-25°. In those respects, the Delta Pro 12 looks almost exactly like the Definimax 4012HO.

You can see what I was looking for in the thread called "Crossover optimization for DI-matched two-way speakers." There's a link to a video in that thread that shows the exact process I was doing today.

I'll do the same thing tomorrow to learn if the 12PLB100 will work, and if so, what crossover components it will need. Then I'll modify the crossover schematic to list the new drivers and the crossover components required. I'll post here when I do, so stay tuned.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 22:39:36 GMT  
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Thanks, Wayne, you anticipated my next question.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 22:48:08 GMT  
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Excellent!

I'm excited about these new driver choices. They give people the kind of good quality choices that are what this loudspeaker design really needs.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 22:59:23 GMT  
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That's fantastic, thank you. I know that WTPro can predict THD and IMD. Any chance of posting comparative curves, please? The JBL paper you linked to suggests that drivers with shorting rings can reduce the 2nd harmonic by up to 15dB compared to drivers without which is not to be sniffed at, particularly if it can help improve some of the midrange incoherence I'm hearing with the Delta 12LFA.

Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 08 Sep 2019 22:55:14 GMT  
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I've measured the 12PLB100 driver and it works well too. Same deal: It needs the same crossover components as the Definimax 4012HO and the Delta Pro 12. Response from any of those three is similar, with vertical nulls in the same locations.

I'll be adding the Delta Pro 12 and the B&C 12PLB100 drivers as options in the next few days, as well as modifying the schematic to include those drivers in the notes.

Here are the distortion measurements, taken with an 8.9v (10 watt) drive signal:

Fundamental 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

B&C 12PLB100

100Hz	0.50%	0.72%	0.25%	0.04%	0.02%
200Hz	0.78%	0.51%	0.12%	0.02%	0.01%
400Hz	0.79%	0.45%	0.07%	0.01%	0.01%

Eminence Definimax 4012HO

100Hz	0.95%	0.77%	0.34%	0.03%	0.05%
200Hz	0.82%	0.67%	0.32%	0.04%	0.03%
400Hz	0.75%	0.53%	0.26%	0.03%	0.02%

Eminence Delta Pro 12

100Hz	2.12%	2.23%	1.63%	0.44%	0.16%
200Hz	2.37%	2.56%	1.33%	0.31%	0.18%
400Hz	2.54%	2.34%	1.12%	0.38%	0.14%

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life  
Posted by [Mudshark](#) on Mon, 09 Sep 2019 15:30:25 GMT  
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Thanks, Wayne, great job and proves the efficacy of shorting rings as described in the JBL paper in reducing 2nd harmonic just leaving a bit of 3rd to worry about (or not).

If anyone wants the last two 12PLB100 on the shelf IN THE WORLD grab em now from Parts Express. I've spoken to B&C today who confirm that the driver is still in production but no-one else in Europe or the US that I can find with a search engine apart from PE carries stock. Perhaps someone can correct me.

B&C are going to get back to me tomorrow if they've been able to find any otherwise a UK disty has offered to order a pair with a 5-7 week lead time.

12PLB100 may not be the best choice from an availability perspective going forward.

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Subject: Re: Definimax 4012HO - End of Life

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 09 Sep 2019 16:20:26 GMT

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As you said, the 12PLB100 is still in production, but they're slow-to-stock. It kind of reminds me of the JBL 2226H a couple of years back, when they moved production from the California plant. For about a year, new 2226H woofers were unobtainium. Glad they're readily available again, though not cheap.

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