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Subject: Bass speakers

Posted by [Michael R](#) on Fri, 03 Sep 2004 19:03:28 GMT

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I am a bass player and I play both electric and acoustic bass, with and without a bow. I am looking for a speaker that isn't the usual bass cab but can be versatile. It needs to be powerful but more importantly, it needs to be clean. Suggestions anyone? Cheers! Michael

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Kevin Jordan](#) on Sun, 05 Sep 2004 13:28:24 GMT

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Myself, I'd use a vintage alnico 15 incher in a box of ample size. Woofers with cakemagnets don't sound as good unless they have copper in the pole piece, then they're good too, some say better. Put your money in a good woofer, that's the most important thing for clean, tight bass. The cabinet is important too, but it all starts with the woofer. You might write to Bill Fitzmaurice, he seems very knowledgeable and probably has plans for a bass rig, maybe a DR15. You'll find him here and at [www.billfitzmaurice.com](http://www.billfitzmaurice.com). Rgs, Kevin

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Mon, 06 Sep 2004 12:52:05 GMT

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Actually, while I do have a DR15 box on my site, because of its large size I don't recommend it unless it's for retrofit with an existing driver. I prefer smaller drivers with horns, and my personal rig is a DR250a, with the addition of a Tuba 24 sub for very large rooms- 300 seats or larger. Both are loaded with tens.

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Kevin Jordan](#) on Mon, 06 Sep 2004 21:17:01 GMT

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What kind of a ten do you use? Where do you get good ones for high power low distortion bass?

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2004 12:29:24 GMT

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For high power (over 100 watts) low frequency (below 80 Hz) I'm using the new Eminence HL10a. In the same box with 200 watts input it gives me an additional 7dB output at 40 Hz compared to a Beta 10, due to the elimination of power compression. I find that the Beta 10 works fine with up to 100 watts in, but beyond that the higher BI of the HL10a allows much improved cone control, especially with high throat impedances. The high xMax of the HL10a also makes bottoming out a non-issue. However, with 100 watts or less input the Beta ten is more sensitive, so which to use is definitely a matter of intended usage. Since there's a \$100 price differential it's an important consideration.

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Kevin Jordan](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2004 17:20:25 GMT

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The HL10A is made for horns so it can handle the pressure. No offense, but I don't think the Beta 10 would be any good at all. No power handling and a thin cone that can rip real easy, so it's easy to burn and rip. I think it's good for a full range monitor speaker but not for a bass horn, IMHO. Can your horns use TAD 1102, Adire Brahma 10 or even a Dayton Titanic MK3? They are expensive, but you get what you pay for. Use the HL10A for budget models.

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Michael R](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2004 17:56:26 GMT

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What do you think about a horn loaded D130 or maybe a 2205A. Thanks! Michael

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Michael R](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2004 18:00:16 GMT

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I will look at your site. Thanks! Michael

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2004 20:44:00 GMT

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The Beta 10 won't handle extreme pressures, but up to 100 watts or above 80 Hz it's perfectly comfortable; I've been using them in horns for years with no ill effect. I've had no problem with them structurally up to 200 watts below 80 Hz, but by then the power compression causes so much throat distortion that you're not going to put that much power into it for very long. As long as the specs are OK you could certainly use premium drivers in my boxes. I don't personally anymore, as I've found mid priced drivers to be adequate, and saving money on drivers is one of the nice aspects of horns versus direct radiators. The Titanic III (it is an Eminence OEM for Parts Express) is actually very similar to the HL10a, but with its lower Fs and higher Qts it isn't as well suited to horn loading.

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Kevin Jordan](#) on Wed, 08 Sep 2004 14:42:59 GMT

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Thanks for your comments. Some things don't merit premium components but some do. I'll bet your horns with premium components sound great. Michael's electric and acoustic bass might be best with them but maybe the cheaper parts work as good in some cases. Rgs, Kevin P.S. Are you sure the Titanic MkII was made by Eminence? I was told that they were still working on a subwoofer like this. The Titanic has copper in the pole piece. Compare its specs with the LAB12: LAB12 Qts=.39 Fts=22 Titanic Qts=.38 Fts=28

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Wed, 08 Sep 2004 18:30:22 GMT

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John Sheerin is in a better position to know, but I believe that most Dayton's are Eminence sourced. In pictures the motors are different but the frames appear identical between the LAB12 and the Titanic III. Another giveaway is the lack of a 'Made in China' stamp on the Dayton's, as well as packaging identical to Eminence's. I could be wrong, but I don't believe that Dayton (Parts Express house brand) actually makes anything themselves.

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Ralph](#) on Sat, 11 Sep 2004 17:59:41 GMT

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About your bass speakers, it looks like they have several ducts. Is the rear chamber ported on your horns?

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Sun, 12 Sep 2004 13:18:18 GMT

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I do vent my midbass boxes, though the venting is optional. With venting the Fb is lower, but SPL a bit lower as well around Fc, so vented vs non-vented is a matter of whether you want a wider bandwidth or maximum SPL. I recommend that if you run them stand alone you vent, but if used with a sub that you stay sealed.

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Ralph](#) on Wed, 15 Sep 2004 19:32:23 GMT

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Do you happen to have measurements of a speaker of yours that is vented verses one that is non-vented, with everything else the same for comparison? I'd like to get an idea of the differences. Thanks, Ralph

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Kramer](#) on Thu, 16 Sep 2004 18:56:33 GMT

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Do you offer flat pack or driver kits? Maybe sell good/better/best?

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers

Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Sat, 18 Sep 2004 22:47:06 GMT

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Yes, I've made several of my midbass horns both sealed and vented. Send your email address to me at [billfitzmaurice@aol.com](mailto:billfitzmaurice@aol.com) and I'll send you a picture of a chart or two.

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Subject: Re: Bass speakers  
Posted by [Ralph](#) on Sun, 19 Sep 2004 21:06:38 GMT  
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Thanks, please send to me at uberaion (at) mail (dot) com.Ralph

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