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VOL. THIRTY-FOUR
NUMBER TWELVE
SEPTEMBER 2021
USA \$5.99
CANADA \$5.99



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Amphion BaseTwo25

Extend the reach of your Amphion monitors to new heights... I mean depths

REVIEW BY PAUL VNUK JR.

When I reviewed the Amphion FlexBase25 in our June 2019 issue, I mentioned that RECORDING had reviewed every studio model from the Finnish loudspeaker company with two exceptions: The BaseOne25 and BaseTwo25 low-end extension speakers. The BaseOne25 has been discontinued, but a few months ago I finally got a pair of the second-generation BaseTwo25 in my studio and here is what I hear.

Bases loaded

The BaseTwo25 is an active low-frequency extension system. As with the FlexBase25, BaseTwo25 is not a subwoofer in the traditional sense. Unlike the single FlexBase25 speaker tower designed to live between your Amphion monitors, the BaseTwo25 system comprises a pair of low-frequency extenders that live below your monitors and double as speaker stands.

The BaseTwo25 measures 36.25" x 7.5" x 14.25" with a pair of 15.25" x 2.5" legs that you attach (tools included), adding an additional 1.5" to the height. Amphion includes a set of small Sorbothane discs for isolation.

Each cabinet is a sealed design fitted with a pair of opposing 10" aluminum drivers at the top of the tower and matching 10" passive radiators on the bottom, handling dispersion. On the rear of each is a single twin-pole Neutrik Speakon connector.

BaseAmp1200

With the BaseTwo25 towers, you get a custom BaseAmp1200 amplifier and appropriate cabling.

The amp pumps out 700W per channel (4 Ω) rated at 1% THD+N, 20 Hz – 20 kHz, with a dynamic range of 127dB (A) weighted (the towers have a frequency response of 20-100 Hz \pm 3dB).

Connections

The BaseTwo25 system lives inline between your audio interface and main monitors. Audio travels from your interface



outputs to the BaseAmp XLR inputs. From there, the signal is split; Speakon outs feed the towers, and XLR outs feed the mains.

Crossover and control

The BaseAmp1200 offers two controls: an active 4th-order crossover provides options of 40, 60, 80, or 100 Hz, while a level control allows you to fine tune a seamless blend with your main monitors. A backlit power button is also on the front (along with a master power switch on the rear). A second backlit button bypasses the system and restores your main monitors to full range. Nicely, there is a non-latching 1/4" TS jack on the rear of the unit offering foot pedal-controlled bypass. I used a BOSS FS-5U pedal for this, and it worked great.

Setup

I set up the BaseTwo25 towers underneath my trusty Amphion One18 monitors (reviewed March 2015). I used a pair of

IsoAcoustics Aperta 200 isolation stands to get the One18 monitors in the proper position. To be safe, I tested the sound with and without and noticed zero ill effects.

Sound and use

In general, I am not a fan of subwoofers for mixing. I am most pleased to report that while the BaseTwo25 can kick with mighty force when set to appropriate levels, it turned my otherwise two-way One18 monitors into a full-throated, perfectly integrated three-way system. I achieved the best results with a crossover setting of 80 Hz, which kept the beloved midrange of the One18 intact. I found an output level of 5.5 to be the best with the One18 and the heavy treatment in my room. Pushing it to a setting of 7 was excellent for bass-heavy music, especially to impress clients.

Conclusions

As much as I appreciated the previous single FlexBase25 and its abil-

ity to project a stereo low-end image despite being centered in the listening field, I find the BaseTwo25 even better integrated. Again, do not think subwoofer; think of this as a three-way Amphion system well suited for tracking, mixing, and demanding mastering tasks. While the BaseTwo25 system is purpose-designed as part of the Amphion ecosystem (which, of course, I am a fan of), Julian Hyvonen from Amphion notes that their bass systems work well with any monitors which have "sufficient speed and resolution in the critical upper bass / lower mid frequencies."

The FlexBase25 is not an inexpensive proposition, but sound this stellar never is. The BaseTwo25 system really does take my Amphion One18 monitors and my mixing experience to the next level. ➡

Price: \$9500

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