



# THE SLEDGEHAMMER FROM TORUP

Roughly four feet high, just under 80 kg heavy and with a massive construction is XTZ Cinema sub 3x12 a subwoofer that is hard to not notice.

## » A real success from XTZ, and we give the sub 3x12 our warmest recommendations! «

I published a picture on Facebook when XTZ Cinema sub 3x12 arrived at the office, and it was obviously not just me who thought it was a little extra awesome with the brutal subwoofer. As a home theater fool you become the happy throughout your whole body just to see it! So far, the delivery has not started yet. As you read this, it should be available in stores.

### A massive cabinet

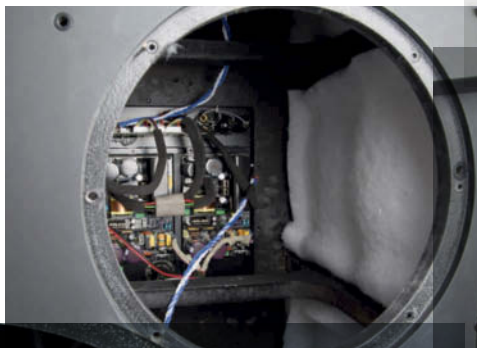
We have written about before Cinema Series, but then we have used a 99W12.18 ICE as subwoofer, which worked just fine. Now the Cinema subwoofers are finally here, both the more normal sub 1x12 and in this test sub 3x12.

The cabinet is made of sturdy, thick MDF, lacquered in matte black to blend into the movie theater, and (at the risk because I nag) armed with three long-stroke 12 inch sitting woofer drivers bolted in the cabinet with 8 screw each. In front of each element the frame is chamfered, which is both stylish and gives the speaker grilles a bracket. The three drivers share the same cabinet, a cabinet that is vented forward. The port is a considerably large slit port with rounded edges, and it comes with a heavy perfectly cut foam plug to block the port if wanted.

Of course you can place this subwoofer wherever you want but I wanted to see how it reacted to different placements. And the answer is not very much at all. Some subwoofers are sensitive to placement, others do not, and oddly enough, I can not derive any sensitivity to placement to neither construction or cabinet type. It is just to try it yourself. Though in the case of the sub 3x12, it works everywhere.

No problems whatsoever neither with corner placement or even a distance from the wall in the room, even if you have to adapt a little bit of you want it placed in the center of the room. The differences in sound are if the drivers and port are directed out in the room (which I recommend) or along a wall. Especially if sub 3x12 is to be used ported, I think drivers and the port should be directed out in the room,

The driver and front panel unmounted, we inspect the cabinet inside. Note here the twisted high speaker wires, and driver, which also from behind looks impressive.



Here are the three 500-watt amplifiers from Claridy we find behind the middle driver. The final step to the left pushing the upper driver, and the final amplifier to the right bottom. The final amplifier lacks speaker cables consequently drive the element I just removed. Note the internal bars and very neat speaker cables.

some time to test whether sealed or vented enclosure works best, and if the room eq should be on or off. For me it was simple: Room eq off (anechoic room) and the box ported.

The driver is mounted with eight screws, and here we find threaded inserts, perfect because it means that you can really tighten them.

The cabinet stands firmly on the ground, supported by not less than six rubber feet, and the one who wants can of course unscrew the feet and use spikes instead.

Each woofer driver is powered by a 500 watt amplifier from Claridy, and these gets signal from a preamp with filters, EQ and phase adjustment. The inputs are serious, with both balanced XLR and normal phono-inputs, and XLR output for connecting to a second sub 3x12!

### Placement

I have rolled around 3x12 on a rollerboard of the same type as moving men use, to move around the sub 3x12 is not fun. To use the subwoofer on the rollerboard didn't work, it did not sound good at all, so I had to move it off the rollerboard and on again before I was satisfied.



If the subwoofer is to be used closed, simply plug in the supplied heavy foam plug, simple and efficient.

with the back against the wall or toward the corner. With the drivers directed along the wall it will be reinforced by some (not random; but in our room annoying) frequency. The placement of sub 3x12 should not imply any problems, and most importantly, after placement it is recommend to devote

wonderfully controlled, tight and accurate, while we get a rarely perceived physics of the sound.

If you want some extra physical bang, I think the easiest is to play sub 3x12 enclosed, without room EQ and then add some extra bass, and not even then there will be other than fully enjoyable.

### XTZ SUB 3x12

What: Subwoofer  
Drivers: 3 pcs.  
12-inch subwoofers,  
(Selectable bass reflex)  
Amp: 3x500 W RMS  
EQ: Room Adaptation,  
see measuring  
Crossover: 40-160 Hz  
Phase: Variable 0-180 degrees  
Input: XLR mono, RCA  
stereo  
Output: XLR mono  
Price: SEK18  
000/€2000/\$2500  
Dimensions: 535x1150x590  
mm  
Weight: about 76 kg

### Right all way through

When it has such a massive cone area as three 12 inch woofer, its representation gets more physical compared to smaller drivers at the same sound pressure level. I tested Dynaudio Excite Series while I tested sub 3x12, and to support the heavy loaded Danish speakers with the gigantic sub 3x12 was no problem at all, even if the subwoofer just came across idle while Excite played at maximum. Interestingly, there is absolutely no tendencies of 3sub x12 to want to impress the listener with extra pressure to the chest and stomach. Its reproduction is

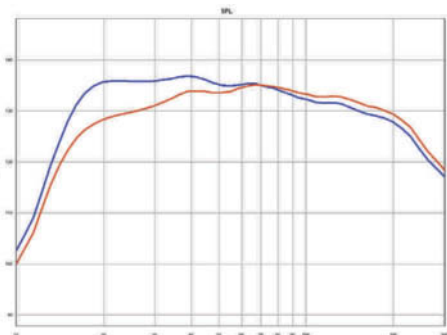




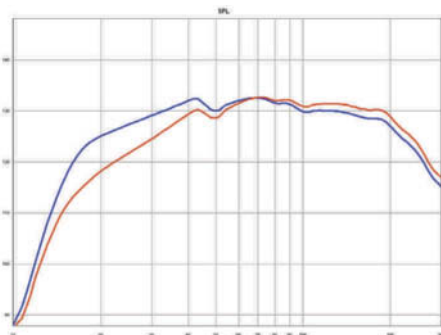
The three front panels are mounted with four screws each, and happily, there are threaded inserts in the front baffle.



Balanced input, yes please! Knobs for crossover frequency, volume and phase. Switches for low-pass filter on / off (set to off if you want to give your amp full control of sub 3x12), Room EQ and choice if the power should be automatic or always on. At the far end is a button labeled "pair", and it has no function. Right now, anyway. Olle at XTZ says it "might" be used with a later update, and we're guessing that they are thinking of doing sub 3x12 wireless.



Here we see measurement for vented cabinet, the blue is without compensation, and the red is the "room gain" turned on.



... And the same for sealed box, where the red curve is the compensation for "room gain" on.

## I took the opportunity to talk a little to Olle Eliasson (CEO and founder of XTZ) about the new Cinema Subwoofers:

Besides the obvious, that the 3x12 has three times as much cone area and more power, which is the major differences between it and 99W12.18 ICE structurally?

- For Cinema Series, we have put great effort into all the details and it has been a both more appealing design and function, such as the trapezoid shape both design-wise, attractive and provides a good feature. Same thing with the slot port, the internal bracing and damping, more in detail developed for the Cinema Series. Knobs, switches and inputs are also higher quality. The drivers are absolute highest performance, and the amplifiers are in league as the ICE Power.

How would you describe the differences sonically?

- 99W12.18 ICE is a product that I am very pleased with where we chose very good components in a perfect large cabinet, so it's not something you beats in a simple way. Cinema is better in a couple of points: the drivers can handle more power and more output and has a more "soft" distortion if you happen to turn up the subwoofer up to the absolute maximum.

One can thus squeeze more out of Cinema without sounding bad. Then Cinema offers higher efficiency and a light cone, so it can keep up with music in a very good way even higher up in frequency.

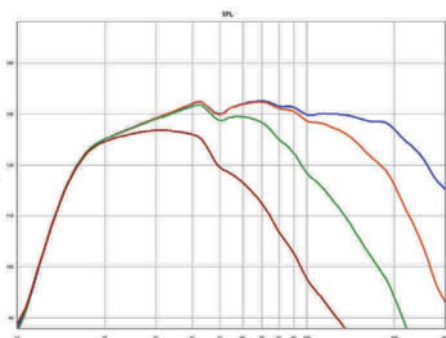
The sound characteristics and frequency response are

If you push the limit of sub 3x12, you can play extremely loud, and despite 15dB earplugs (thanks Bellman & Symfon) I didn't dare to experience the limit of sub 3x12. With a pair of sub 3x12 you fill any home theater with bass pressure that is enough. My room is just under 30 square meters and it would easily been enough with two sub 1x12!

In all this cone area and power, we find also a subwoofer that is very detailed all the way down to the lowest frequencies. One can discern an unusual amount of nuances, especially for the price point.

XTZ Cinema sub 3x12 gives rock solid and nuanced support for any speaker system, and because we measure the full sound pressure down to (and below!) 20 Hz, you are guaranteed a true cinema experience.

Given the price tag this must be by far the best deal if you are looking for the most sound pressure and low frequency performance per dollar. A real success from XTZ, and we give the sub 3x12 our warmest recommendations!



Here we see the crossover, all measurements with sealed cabinet. Blue curve is the crossover disconnected, red is 160 Hz, green is 80 Hz and brown is 40 Hz. No oddities, the filter does exactly what is expected.

### CUSTOMIZE THE REPRODUCTION

One of XTZ's parade branches has always been the possibility for the user to adjust the subwoofer for room and / or taste. Olle Eliasson has previously worked with construction of dual ports with different length (so that you can get different tuning and thus different low frequency response depending on whether you are blocking one / two or none of the ports) and EQ-switches with different amplification/attenuation, and in case of 99W12 DSP with digital signal correction total control of low frequency reproduction. Cinema Series adjustment consists of two parts: the slot port can be plugged back in, and secondly, there is a switch with the modes "anechoic room" and "room gain", the latter lowers low frequency response to compensate for room gain which normally amplifies the lowest bass. The measurements show the differences between the two modes for closed and vented box.