



**Eton AM500:
Amplifier module
for subwoofers**

Bass module

► **Want to activate an existing subwoofer quickly and easily? No problem with the AM500 from Eton. We present this smart little box.**

The idea is not new: If you already have a passive subwoofer, or if the manufacturer does not offer the subwoofer you want in an active version or only as a single chassis, you can conjure up an active woofer with fairly simple means. Eton's contribution to this idea is called AM500, promising around 500 watts and costing just 130 euros. For this you get a lot in a nicely air-tight and very well made housing.

The front panel measures 206 x 85 mm, the installation depth is 95 mm, and you should allow 188 x 64 mm for the cutout. The features are incredible for 130 euros. A level remote control is included, and there are high and low level inputs together with Auto turn-on, both as DC Offset and AC/Signal. The high-level inputs can be switched to 15 or 40 volts so that even factory amps are no problem. And a 3-step adjustable input impedance helps with loudspeaker identification for difficult factory radios or special VW and BMW factory systems. For filters there is a switchable subsonic, polarity reversal switch and the obligatory boost and low-pass controls – altogether incredible. The interior design of the AM500 is compact. In the metal housing we find once again an L-shaped aluminum heat sink on which all power carrying

components are mounted. Ten transistors are distributed across the impressive transformer power supply unit and the output stage. The Class D filtering consists of a large encapsulated coil and decent capacitors. Then comes a ferrite ring in the speaker cable that serves to suppress interference.

Measurements and Sound

This is clearly a success as we find the output stage has no influence of any kind in the FM and DAB frequency ranges – everything is clean. Let's move on to the special feature of the AM500, which has to do with the power output. Concealed behind the front panel is a 3-step jumper for changing between operating modes. This needs to be done only once, and we recommend having it done directly by a specialist dealer. The AM500 is capable of 500 watts, regardless whether 4-ohm or 2-ohm loads are connected. That is remarkable because normally the power theoretically doubles when switching from 4 to 2 ohms (and then to 1 ohm). Therefore it is simpler and cheaper to deliver 500 watts into 1



Solid Class D technology with one trick: The little jumper on the far left switches operating modes

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ohm than 500 watts into 4 ohms. The fact that our AM500 already delivers half a kilowatt at 4 ohms is therefore highly commendable; it's just that a jumper is necessary to do so. In the left position is the output into 4 ohms, but 2-ohm loads are not allowed. Then there is the mid position with the output into 2 ohms, but then at only half of the output into 4 ohms. And finally there is the right position for which an output limit is activated. This can be practical for a small subwoofer if you don't want it to rattle. But now to the test results: we measured close on 500 watts into both 4 and an 2 ohms, with a limit of 300 watts into 2 ohms and 150 watts into 4 ohms. There is also praise for the fairly low distortion. Only the signal-to-noise ratio is rather meager at just under 80 dB, but still plenty big enough. Soundwise there is unreserved praise for the very decent punch down into the low bass. It is hard to imagine that a 150 euro power amp is at work here. There is a very respectable punch, and even fast bass tones can be separated acoustically with ease.

Summary

With a comprehensive set of features and a lot of power starting at 4 ohms, other power amps will find it difficult keeping up at this price-performance ratio. The thing is a blast!

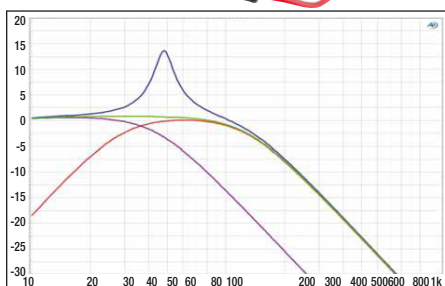


The AM500 is packed full of features, including high level inputs with all the bells and whistles

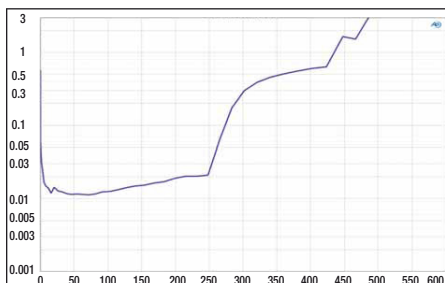


The housing is air tight so that the ready-to-go subwoofer draws no air

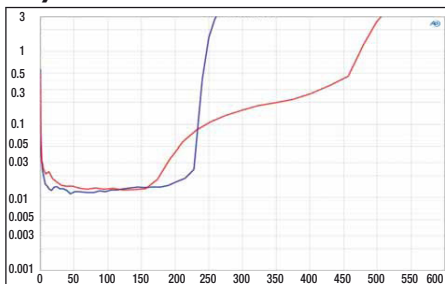
BEST PRODUCT
Middle-Class
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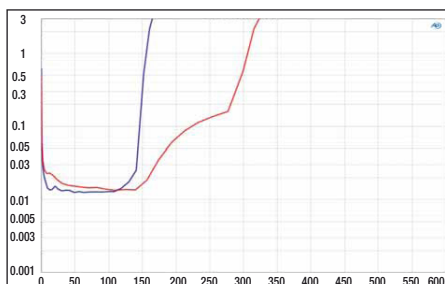
The AM500 comes with controllable bass boost and low-pass filter. The subsonic filter is set at just under 30 Hz and is switchable



Left jumper position: 4 ohms stable only and 470 watts



Mid jumper position: 477 watts at 2 ohms and 246 watts at 4 ohms



Right jumper position: Output limited to 300 and 150 watts

Eton AM 500

Price about 130 Euro
Distributor ACR, CH-5330 Zurzach
Hotline info@eton-caraudio.com
Internet www.eton-audio.com

Summary

Sound quality	20 %	1,1	■■■■■
Bass foundation	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Pressure	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Transparency	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Dynamics	5 %	1,5	■■■■■
Lab	55 %	0,8	■■■■■
Power	40 %	0,5	■■■■■
Damping factor	5 %	1,5	■■■■■
Distortion	5 %	2,0	■■■■■
Signal/Noise Ratio	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Practice	25 %	1,0	■■■■■
Features	15 %	1,0	■■■■■
Workmanship electr.	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Workmanship mech.	5 %	1,0	■■■■■

Technical Data

Channels	1
Power @ 4 ohms	470
Power @ 2 ohms	477
Power @ 1 ohms	0
Sensitivity max mV	200
Sensitivity min V	6,1
THD+N (<22 kHz) 5 W	0,023
THD+N (<22 kHz) half load	0,018
Signal/Noise Ratio dB(A)	79
Damping 20 Hz	96
Damping 40 Hz	99
Damping 60 Hz	101
Damping 80 Hz	105
Damping 100 Hz	109
Damping 120 kHz	112

Features

Lowpass	40 – 125 Hz
Highpass	–
Bandpass	30 – 125 Hz
Bass-boost	0 – 12 dB/45 Hz
Subsonicfilter	fixed 30 Hz
Phaseshift	0, 180°
High-Level inputs	•
Autosense	• DC or signal
RCA outputs	–
Start/Stop compatible	– (7,6 V)
Dimensions (L x W x H in mm)	206 x 85 x 98
Other	Remote control, speaker diagnostics adj. 12 / 24 dB/oct., fullrange

Eton AM 500

Middle-Class **1+**

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Price/performance: excellent

"Mega feature set and power from 4 ohms."