

USB 8 AR + USB 10 AR: New underseat subwoofers from Eton

Conveniently concealed

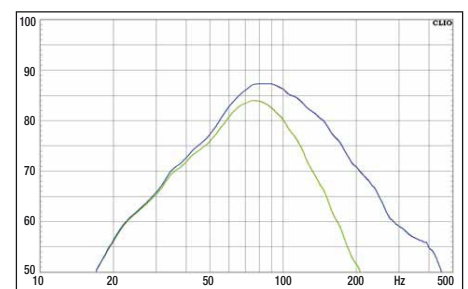
► The USB subwoofers from Eton can be considered a classic among active flat subwoofers. The USB AR models are now coming into the dealers in subtly revised versions.

Initially derided, underseat subwoofers are now considered a permanent fixture among active subwoofers. They are intended for vehicles in which a fixed installation for a subwoofer is out of the question and a thick MDF box is also undesirable. Underseat woofers can not only be installed under the

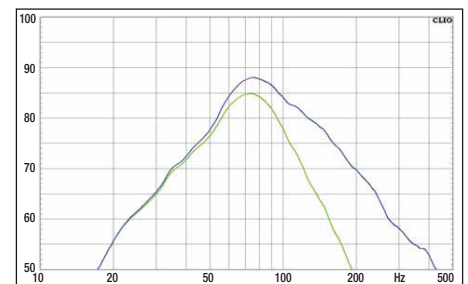
seat: they also look very good in the footwell or in a motorhome, where they find a place behind a panel or in one of the numerous cavities. Connecting the Eton units is extremely simple: all that is necessary is a single Molex-plug that, together with the cable harness, supplies power and the high level signal. If you have a low level signal in the vehicle, then it can also naturally be fed in via a Cinch signal cable. The subwoofer housing has controls for sensitivity, low pass and phase. A cable remote gain control is included so handling the USB woofers is made very simple. Even the remote cable can be left out. On most car radios the subwoofers switch themselves on and off automatically. Our two test candidates are the USB 8 AR and the USB 10 AR, which are differentiated by the size of



Slim signal circuit board with small power supply transformer and amplifier chip.



The USB 8 AR runs down to approx. 60 Hz into the bass basement, adequate for a coherent bass fundament



The USB 10 AR has a maximum sound pressure level only marginally lower than its smaller brother

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The flat bass drivers have dual voice coils to make best use of the amp ICs



Power, switch-on signal and high-level signal come via the Molex connector; for the low-level there are RCA sockets

the bass driver of 8 or 10 inches, and by correspondingly differently sized housings. The housings are made of die-cast aluminum. This is very stable and so the housings can be designed with thin walls to allow maximum internal volume for the bass. To maintain stability, both base and lid are reinforced with molded struts. New here is the Stealth design, which is also a distinctive feature of Eton's power amps. With housing heights of only 7.5 and 8 cm respectively, the bass drivers must naturally be ultra flat. This is taken care of by flat aluminum cones that provide the necessary stability. This allows conventional ferrite drivers to be installed, as can also be found in other speakers. Power is provided by small power supply units and a two-channel amp IC for each. That adequately provides enough in-vehicle bass, especially if the woofer is installed near to the listener and does not have to play from the trunk.

Measurements and Sound

For the amplifier output to be used effectively Eton uses 2 x 2 ohm dual voice coils in its woofers. This way gets the most out of the amplifier chip. Our 2 x 45 watts will of course not impress real bass junkies, but in practice that is perfectly adequate. For their small housings the Etons also deliver quite a lot of deep bass: the USB 8 AR down to 60 Hz, and the USB 10 AR a bit lower at 55 Hz. In practice you do not notice much difference: the USB 10 AR sounds just like the USB 8 AR — first and foremost very clean and crisp. Rather it is differences in maximal level that are noticeable, because the larger cone surface area of the 10-incher helps here of course. However, both are fully suitable for extending the bass range of narrow-bodied small speakers. The additional lower octave provides for a fuller sound and makes much more fun. Naturally, you don't get as much bass as with a fullsize bass housing and a lot more power. In return, with the USB 8 AR and USB 10 AR you do get a discreet and concealed installed bass — a trade-off that one is well able to make.

Summary

Compact, stable and practical — the underseat woofers USB 8 AR and USB 10 AR from Eton. Neat problem solvers for inconspicuous bass.

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Subwoofer

	Eton USB 8 AR	Eton USB 10 AR
Price	about 280 Euro	about 300 Euro
Distributor	ACR	ACR
Hotline	CH-5330 Zurzach	CH-5330 Zurzach
Internet	info@eton-audio.eu eton-audio.com	info@eton-audio.eu eton-audio.com

Summary

▶ Sound quality	50 %	1,1	■■■■■	1,1	■■■■■
Bass foundation	7,5 %	1,5	■■■■■	1,5	■■■■■
Pressure	7,5 %	1,5	■■■■■	1,5	■■■■■
Clearance	7,5 %	0,5	■■■■■	0,5	■■■■■
Dynamics	7,5 %	1,0	■■■■■	1,0	■■■■■
▶ Lab	40 %	1,3	■■■■■	1,1	■■■■■
Frequency response	10 %	1,5	■■■■■	1,5	■■■■■
Max. SPL	10 %	1,5	■■■■■	1,0	■■■■■
Amp power	5 %	1,0	■■■■■	1,0	■■■■■
▶ Practice	30 %	1,3	■■■■■	1,3	■■■■■
Features	10 %	1,5	■■■■■	1,5	■■■■■
Workmanship electr.	10 %	1,5	■■■■■	1,5	■■■■■
Workmanship mech.	10 %	1,0	■■■■■	1,0	■■■■■

Technical data

Case width	34,5 cm	36 cm
Case height	7,5 cm	8 cm
Case depth	24,0 cm	27,5 cm
Type / volume	closed 4,5 l	closed 5,5 l
Port (d x l)	—	—
Weight	6,0 kg	6,5 kg
Chassi diameter	20 cm	25 cm
Nominal impedance	2 x 2 ohms	2 x 2 ohms
Coil diameter	38 mm	38 mm
Power nominal	90 W	90 W
Sensitivity max mV	210 mV	210 mV
Sensitivity min V	4,0 V	4,0 V
THD +N (<22kHz) 5W	0,25 %	0,25 %
THD +N (<22kHz) half load	0,25 %	0,25 %
Signal/Noise Ratio DB(A)	94 dB	94 dB

Features

Lowpass	80 – 150Hz	80 – 150Hz
Bass-boost	—	—
Subsonicfilter	fixed 25 Hz	fixed 25 Hz
Phaseshift	switch	switch
Low-level inputs	•	•
High-level inputs	•	•
Autosense	•, DC	•, DC
Start-Stop compatible	— (8.4 V)	— (8.4 V)
Remote	•, gain	•, gain
Other	—	—

Compact-Class 1,2

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Price/performance: very good

Compact-Class 1,2

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"Practical, uncomplicated bass."