



XTZ introduced their new subs 17-series a couple of weeks ago. It is the most affordable range from the Swedish manufacturer, but these subs for me are the best opportunity at this price range, together with SVS subs. Logically, some of you asked me to compare the XTZ products to the SVS PB1000 in this review. Though I am here mainly to test the XTZ subs, I will however refer to the PB1000 since I own one and they are really close to each other from a listening point of view. Initially, I had planned to propose two tests, one for XTZ 10.17 (539,90€) and the other for XTZ 12.17 (639,90€), but at the end of the day, they are so close to each other, in spite of the difference in size, that I eventually elected to publish only one global review, after several weeks spent in the company of these superb subwoofers !

Conclusion

With the 17-series, XTZ have established a new reference at affordable price. Up to now, SVS used to be my reference in this price range, but from now on, XTZ 10.17 and 12.17 are on the front row. The quality of assembly is really exceptional, and be it the casing, the speaker or the electronics, I had never seen before such a quality level at such a price level. And cream on the cake, there is a very comprehensive back panel with high quality connectors, line input, LFE, XLR, and even an XLR pass-through, as well as a collection of efficient EQ modes that have a true effect on the output.

Be it the 10" or the 12" unit, they both deliver sublime and devastating bass. Low pitched response goes deep, strong and quick, precise, perfectly readable over a large frequency range, and adds a lot to the emotions that one could feel watching a movie or listening to music. These are perfectly versatile subs, that - thanks to the two adjustable blowholes - will be as efficient for home theater as for hifi listening, and will satisfy all expectations. They will match column speakers as well as satellite speakers, because they deliver a quality sound in the high range of bass. The subs provide high or low crossover, at choice. Talking of the quality of XTZ bass is talking about musicality, really.

Reading through this review, one could wonder if two products isn't one too many, so close the performance of one another. In my test configuration, and within my own environment, no matter how strange it may sound, the 10" delivered more impact in the extreme low range, whilst the 12" delivered more precision, linearity, and control in the high range. But I say it again, the influence of the room configuration is huge on bass performance. If in my 20cbm room the XTZ10.17 delivered better extreme low bass, the opposite might prove equally true with the 12.17 in a larger room. In any case, no worry, with one or the other, results are very close, and excellent no matter what. I keep thinking that the 12" would have benefited from a stronger amplification than that of the 10", yet if you can afford it the XTZ 1x12 will take the performance even further in the 12" range.

I can only congratulate XTZ for these two subs of exemplary quality and outstanding performance. I was really hit by this review. A true and complete success, two subs among too few of this kind, that perfectly deserve HDfever reference award for best quality / price in this range. Many thanks to videopole.fr for introducing me to the XTZ world, and for this long term loan of these two wonderful subs.



Rating is evaluated in the light of the price :

manufacturing quality : ★★★★★★★★
Depth of bass 10.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Depth of bass 12.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Quality of bass 10.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Quality of bass 12.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Control of extreme low bass 10.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Control of extreme low bass 12.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Control of high bass 10.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Control of high bass 12.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Amplification power 10.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Amplification power 12.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Settings (EQ, Crossover, Phase) : ★★★★★★★★
Quality of connector set: ★★★★★★★★
Price / performance ratio XTZ 10.17 : ★★★★★★★★
Price / performance ratio XTZ 12.17 : ★★★★★★★★

What I liked with XTZ series 17 :

- Undisputable quality at that price!
- Quality of connectors, XLR Sub Input
- Efficiency of settings (Mode EQ, Crossover, Phase)
- Bass Reflex capability with two blowholes and foams
- Quality of bass over the entire frequency range (precision, speed, strength, readability, high-pitch)
- Depth of bass and percussion
- Versatility : as good for home theater as for music
- Unbeatable price/performance ratio (for how long ?)

What I did not like so much with XTZ series 17 :

- The 12" model could live with a stronger amplification than that of the 10"
- Performance and rendering too close to each other
- A small lack of control in the ultra low range (slight raming around 10Hz)
- Wish there was a little more impact in the extreme low bass with the 12.17