



# REL Classic 99

**WINNER**  
**SUBWOOFER**

**B**ack when REL was a new force in subwoofering in the 1990, founder Richard E Lord's three designs were the Strata, Stadium and Stentor. The Classic 98 was a loving homage to the Strata III, so it stands to reason that the Classic 99 is... a scaled-up version of the Classic 98. The Classic 99 is around 30% larger than the 98, with a 12-inch downward-firing paper driver as opposed to the 98's 10-incher. The 99 also has a 450 watt amp built in compared with the 98's 300 watts. Both, however, are only available in a rich walnut veneer that lives up to the 'Classic' name. From the first product to carry the name, REL subwoofers used a unique 'high-level' connection, that hooks the sub to the loudspeaker terminals of an audiophile system, as well as a more conventional 'LFE' line-level input as seen in home cinema systems.

## Noticeable improvement

Like all RELs, the Classic 99 benefits from a more subtle set-up, melding almost inaudibly with your loudspeaker output rather than just adding obvious low-end grunt. Having set the Classic 99 up correctly, Chris Frankland was impressed. "From the first few notes of every track I played, the inclusion of the subwoofer brought a noticeable improvement," he claimed, adding that "piano was more real, with more space around it, and voices were cleaner and more emotive."

Of course, bass was improved, with Chris noting that, "the bass line when it kicked in was not only deeper, but tighter and easier to follow." But more importantly, "it will also improve the sound as a whole, giving more insights and presence to tracks you thought you knew well."

Reviewed in Issue **237**

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