



REL Classic 98

WINNER
SUBWOOFER

Welsh subwoofer experts REL gained international recognition in 1998 with its Strata III model. Now, in 2023, REL has released the Classic 98, an updated version of the Strata III that combines the best elements of the original design with modern technology.

The original concept behind REL subwoofers was a sealed enclosure with a low-power Class A/B amplifier and a long-throw bass driver. This design choice set REL apart from other subwoofers on the market that used ports to enhance bass performance. With the Classic 98, REL has stuck to this concept with only minor 21st Century changes, such as a 300W Class D amp driving the 250mm bass unit.

In terms of aesthetics, the subwoofer maintains the old-school REL design with a deep matt walnut veneer finish and rolled edges.

The only noticeable differences are the updated REL badge and braced cabinet construction to handle the sub's increased power output.

The Classic 98 balances the warmth of older REL designs and the speed and depth of modern subwoofers. The improved control over bass, thanks to the braced cabinet and more powerful amplifier, results in a faster, tighter, and deeper sound with just a touch of warmth that is well-suited for audio enthusiasts.

In our test, Alan Sircom said, "Bass reinforcement from this subwoofer is more in line with REL's long-standing guidelines of just enough to underpin the sound, thereby letting the midrange and treble of the main loudspeaker shine through." He added, "This is sound reinforcement, not simply confined to bass, and that's what makes this great for audio."

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