

VIBE LITEBOX AMPLIFIERS

Following the compact PDX amps from Alpine and the JL Audio HD units, Vibe has just raised the bar for compact powerhouses, delivering a new range aimed at high-end, technology-loving customers. For high performance cars or where the amp install needs to be minimal, Vibe offers the LiteBox range.

On the high street at least, smaller usually means better, thanks largely to consumers knowing that there has been the latest technology used to get everything we expect, only in a smaller package. It's the same across consumer electronics the world over. But when it comes to car hi-fi, and amplifiers especially, there are two schools of thought. A serious car audiophile doesn't mind what size the amplifier is and generally, bigger usually means better, thanks mainly to more realistic sound reproduction coming from older technology. But for the consumer on the high street, smaller wins every time.



Over the last few years we've seen some 'old school' customers grow up from their younger days when a big boot build was cool, and move to more practical wheels. But they don't want a huge sub enclosure and amplifiers compromising boot space for more practical demands. To appeal to this customer, who hasn't lost his passion for car audio, dealers need to offer all he expects and remembers, only in a more compact format that fits into his lifestyle. It could also be perfect for those looking for an audio build in a lightweight or sportscar, where weight is of paramount importance or generous space is not an option. And that's the thinking behind Vibe's first compact amp range. Massive advances in amplifier switching technology over the last few years has seen Class D amps become more

damping factor 20 times better than a Class D, thus 20 times less distortion.

THE NEW LITEBOX FEATURES:

The three new amplifier models use Class G/H technology which Vibe claims will deliver impressive clean output from an exceptionally small package. To put meat on the bones of this claim, the signal-to-noise ratio for the stereo amplifiers is around 110dB. Auto Sense: As these amplifiers are designed for supercars where most head units will not have a switched remote output or RCA output, the LiteBox amplifier actually senses the power IC and will turn the on and off with the factory head unit. As the LiteBox amplifier senses the IC and not the signal, it provides much more consistent

compact, as proven by Alpine and JL Audio. But last year Vibe pioneered a new Award-winning switching technology it called Class G/H, as we saw in the BlackBox range. The Class G operation takes the power supply voltage to a higher level when high output swings are detected.

The Class H part of the name simply refers to an input signal modulated control of the higher power supply output. The aim of this amp range is to deliver the efficiency of a Class D amp only with better sound quality as Class GH amplifiers have a

operation and avoids turn on/off thump and flat batteries associated with inferior signal sensing circuitry. Additionally when Auto Sense is used, the remote turn on terminal of the amplifier becomes a switched 12 Volt output for other devices such as crossovers, equalisers and amplifiers without the Auto Sense feature.

CHIP PROTECTION: The amp is run by a microprocessor that monitors all of the amplifiers functions and senses short circuits, over-voltage, under-voltage, thermal trip and reverse polarity.

FILTERING: Despite the diminutive footprint of the LiteBox amps feature all the filtering functions of the bigger BlackBox amps, including Bass Enhance, low-pass filter, high-pass filter and the Bass 1 sub amp also gains a subsonic filter.

MICRO: When space is tight, the LiteBox comes into its own. As an example, the Stereo 2 measures up at only 210mm long, 135mm wide and 50mm deep.

THE MODELS

So far the LiteBox range is made up of three models, which we've obtained the RMS power figures for. The pricing reflects the exceptional development work that has been undertaken and also the typical customer base this range is aimed at.

First is the Stereo 2, which as the name suggests, is a two-channel model. This will retail for under £200 and is rated at 2 x 90W at 4 ohms, 2 x 125W at 2 ohms or 1 x 250W at 4 ohms.

Next up is the Stereo 4. This should deliver 4 x 90W at 4 ohms, 4 x 125W at 2 ohms and 2 x 250W at 4 ohms. The expected RRP will be under £300. Finally, for bass solutions, the Bass 1 is a mono and will be priced at around £350 RRP. The RMS output is rated at 1 x 300W at 4 ohm or 1 x 500W at 2 ohm loads. Like its big brothers, a pair of Bass 1 amplifiers can be strapped together, delivering 1000WRMS at 4 ohms.

Expect to see the LiteBox amps hitting dealers in January. Look out for these new models on Midbass' stand at M.E.N. Expo next month. For more details on this range and the rest of the Midbass line-up, contact: 0870 765 8423 or vibeaudio.co.uk

