

Option Audio Pro Pack Review - Andrew Patchett

I'm sure a lot you know by now just how hard and confusing it can be to find the right amp to go with the all important sub, let alone getting the right box for the job, especially if you're just getting your first sound system. Well Option Audio has made life simple, today I review their PRO PACK.

THE SUBWOOFER

At first glance the Option Audio OA12PRO11, 12 inch sub looks quite tough. The huge rubber surround is double stitched to the cone, using a white thread that really stands out nicely against the 'black carbon Kevlar' cone. The cone itself has a beautiful carbon fibre look to it, which has been massively popular in the car scene for some time now. In the center of the cone is the matt black dust cap with the large silver Option Audio logo letters 'O' and 'A'. There is also a large silver 'P' proudly representing the Pro series heart that beats within. But what holds it all together?

Upon turning the sub over, you're met with a tall oval dome die cast aluminium basket, which is supported by six alloy legs, starting from the base of the magnet then stretching up to the mounting ring. The legs split into two just below the spider. This, combined with the slot vents in between the legs, creates an abundance of air flow to help cool the voice-coil.

To help keep this monster centered, there is a single Nomex spider about half way down the sub to allow for maximum extrusion of the 2.4inch (61mm) dual voice-coil. The dual 4 Ohm voice-coil combined with the dual 100 Oz Y35 Ferrite Magnet (which even has its own cooling vents) is capable of a tidy 800 WRMS, 1600 WATTS max. This is more than enough for someone just getting into car audio or looking to upgrade from the spare sub you scored off your mate. Now what to put it in?

THE BOX

To save you the hassle, Option Audio have gone to the effort of designing and building a box that's sure to please in looks as well as sound. The Box is constructed out of 22mm MDF, with is more than the average cheap box (they normally rage from only 16mm to 18mm). On the front of the box you will find more of that beautiful carbon fibre look, with a nice Option Audio logo up in one corner and an embroidered 'P' in the other, showing this box is built for the pro series sub.

The entire box is covered in black carpet and features a huge Option Audio logo with their website address embroidered on the back on the box.

The Option Audio logo is also featured on top of each of the wire terminals. The wire terminals are on the side of the box, four to be exact, one positive and one negative for each voice-coil making wiring user friendly as possible. To make some noise the port is tuned to 42Hz and is 45mm wide to really help move some air. All in all the box looks well constructed and looks great with the sub, but we will see how they fair when it's put to the test!

THE AMPLIFIER

Now for power. To finish off the combo package Option Audio have thrown in the OAK1200 class D monoblock amplifier, The pride of their Street series amps. At first look it's smaller than I expected for an amp that's rated to 1200 WRMS, 2400 WATTS max at 1 Ohm stable.

Looking on top of the amp there is a nice perspex Option Audio logo firmly mounted to the outside casing. There's also a OAK1200 CLASS D AMPLIFIER stamped on one corner and an 'S' for Street series in the other. On the input end there is your positive, earth and remote as well as the speaker output terminals, the positive and earth can easily fit 4 gauge wire which is always good. On the other end you have two lights, run and alarm. Finally on tuning side of things there is a remote (volume controller), RCA input, gain, LPF (low pass filter), supersonic and bass boost.

Over all its a rather good looking amp. On the inside there's the guts of it all, everything is neat and tidy, looks well thought out and well constructed. Cooling doesn't seem to be an issue with vents on both ends. The case is well proportioned to the actual size of the internals, it's never nice to see a good size amp to find out it's internals are half the size of the case. The labelling for the dials and inputs are a bit small and could make tuning a bit tricky if the amp is mounted in a hidden or hard to get to spot. Now to see if this compact amp can really make some power!

MAKING SOME NOISE

I installed the gear into a sedan running a 1/0 gauge setup with the trunk sound deadened and the sub was positioned facing the boot lid, about 8 inches away. Turning on the amplifier the perspex logo on the amp illuminates in blue, which looked great in the dark. I ran a 4 gauge reducer on the 1/0 gauge cable so i could fit it into the amp, 12 gauge wire was used to wire the sub to 2 Ohm on the amp to give a total of 700 WRMS. I tuned the sub to 42Hz, as that's what the port is tuned to. After running sweep and finding where the car peaked I tweaked the amp to a little more and threw on the first test track, some old school Beastie

Boys - Sure Shot. The kick drum sounded sweet, nice and tight, but time came for a track with more bass, next track, Tech-n9ne - demons, If u like rap this sub will have you thumpin all day long! Every beat had a nice tight punch and sung on the lows.

Next track was several different styles of Dubstep - if you're a fan you will love the bass this combo produces - it hammered everything low but still punched high. I did play a few tracks of heavy metal but found it too boomy on really fast tracks. The last track I played was Phil Collins - in the air tonight (bass remix) this track was used to see just how low this sub could go, with the track dropping down to 10Hz at some points. Wow is all I can say, I didn't have much hope for the sub with the box tuned to 42Hz but the sub loved it, the sub got massive extrusion and really moved some air! Output was lost at 20Hz and under .

CONCLUSION

From the quality of the gear, to the quality and volume produced by it, The Option Audio PRO PACK is hard not to smile at - it's built as good as it looks - you will not be disappointed.

Subwoofer Power Rating: 1600 Watts / 800 WRMS

Impedance: Dual 4Ω

Freq. Response: 10-2 KHz

Dimensions of Sub in Enclosure: 540 L x 380 H x 410 W

Amplifier Power Rating: 2400 Watts / 1200WRMS

Freq. Response: 10-220Hz

RRP Price for package: \$849

PROS

Quality builds, Pure sound, Powerful deep bass, well put together combo.

CONS

Suffers a little on heavy, fast paced music

Reviewed by Andrew Patchett



ABOUT ANDREW

Andrew Patchett has been an audio fanatic since he was 15, watching all of his mates older brothers at meet ups and showing off their installs. Since then he's been pursuing a career in car audio. He bought his first Option Audio 800WRMS monoblock amp as soon as it hit the market and now owns two OAX1502 monoblock amps, bridged together to power an OA12XTM11 subwoofer, set in a custom box which he designed and built himself.