

QXB-6A / QXB-8A = powered subwoofers from ESX

# Active subs with power

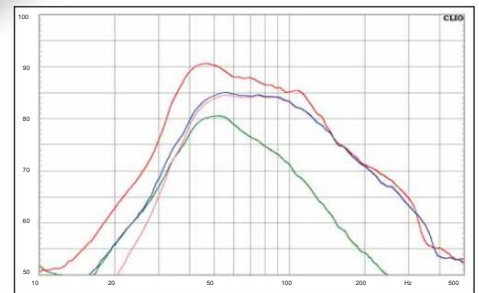
ESX expands its QXB series with two interesting active subwoofers. And these two have it all, as our test shows.

Active subwoofers still have problems to be taken seriously by real bass fans. The active ones are often very cheap constructions, so that the final price is not too deterrent, because after all they all contain a built-in amplifier and a subwoofer driver.

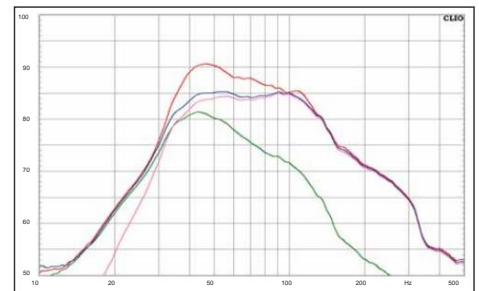
ESX is now taking a different approach to realizing premium active subs. And that's basically very easy to do with a handle on the shelf. Take the best passive housing subwoofers in the program and the best built-in amplifiers. The woofer boxes are the QXB series, of which the two small models with 6 and 8 inch configurations have the appropriate compact form factor. They are very compact, but still really serious woofers. You can see that on the bass drivers,

that come with huge double ferrite drives and powerful cast baskets. There are also 2 x 2 Ohm double voice coils in an impressive size. Even the small QXB-6A has a four-layer 50 millimeter voice coil and 15 millimeter stroke, while the QXB-8A has 64 and 18 millimeters.

The MDF housings are extremely solid, with stable wooden tunnels for the reflex systems and massive protective grilles. The woofers also come with feet that also enable downfire operation so that the woofers can be loaded in the trunk. The amplifier modules are the Power 4 introduced last year (test in C&H 3/2022), which is specially designed to fire up existing passive subwoofers. The Power 4 also has the best vehicle integration on the market, not just cinch and



The QXB-6A runs exemplary up to 40 Hz. Bass boost and subsonic filter work great



The QXB-8A runs into the deep bass below 40 Hz, with the subsonic filter (pink) turned up all the way, it loses minimally at the lower end, but the sloping end becomes steeper and less power wasted for nothing



No savings models:  
The QXE/QXB woofers are impressively massive woofer chassis

high level inputs. We also have a three-stage adjustable input impedance for all types of control devices, speaker diagnostic circuitry and adjustable sensitivity of the inputs, so that sound packages can also be retrofitted with factory amplifiers. The best thing about the power modules, however, is their performance, which far exceeds that of a standard active subwoofer.

**Measurements and sound Our**

Power 4 is optimized for 4 ohm operation, which results from the series connection of the double voice coils. At 4 ohms, it delivers over 400 watts and doesn't need to fear any competition on the market, as a look at our test device list shows. Nice things like Bassboost and Subsonic are of course welcome. The woofer housings show -3 dB points at 42 and 36 Hz in the amplitude plot, both woofers benefit here from the subsonic filter (not turned up all the way on the QXB-8A). Anyone who thinks 42 and 36 Hz isn't really deep bass should listen to both of them. Even the compact QXB-6A delivers rich depth for non-extreme music genres and plays very powerfully over the entire bass range. The QXB-8A actually goes a bit deeper and pushes the lower registers powerfully forward.

Both play precisely and without softening the bass. What is completely impressive, however, is the vehemence with which the woofers push bass into the ears of the vehicle occupants. Here you can hear the 400 watts and the massive bass drivers working really well. In view of its size, the QXB-8A

gets the title "incredible", the QXB-6A is more likely to be capable of creating desolate levels.

**Conclusion QXB-6A and QXB-8A**

are probably the most serious active subwoofers on the market. Still pretty compact, they impress with their first-class equipment with woofer chassis and power amplifier, but above all with their output. Full of bang! Terrific!

Elmar Michels

The built-in module Power 4 shines with first-class equipment and full performance



Giant magnets and perfectly ventilated Drives are on the credit side



**HIGHLIGHT**  
top class  
**CAR & HiFi** 3/2023

**BEST PRODUCT**  
top class  
**CAR & HiFi** 3/2023

Subwoofer	ESX QXB-6A	ESX QXB-8A
Price	a 380 Euro	a 430 Euro
distribution	Audio Design Kronau	Audio Design Kronau
Hotline	07253 9465-0	07253 9465-0
Internet: www.	audiodesign.de	audiodesign.de

Evaluation			
Klang	30 %	1,1 yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 1,5 yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 1,5	
draft	7,5 %	yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 0,5 yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 1,0	
Print	7,5 %	yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy	
cleanliness	7,5 %		
dynamics	7,5 %		
Labor 40 %		0,9 yyyyyy 0,8 yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 1,5	
frequency response 10 %		yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 0,5 yyyyyy 0,5 yyyyyy	
Maximalpegel 10 %			
Power amp power 20 %			
Practice 30 % equipment 10 %		1,0 yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 0,5 yyyyyy 0,5 yyyyyy 1,5	
proc. Electronics 10 % proc. Mechanics 10 %		yyyyyy 1,5 yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy 1,0 yyyyyy	

Technical specifications		
case width	38,0 cm	46,0 cm
case height	28,0 cm	33,0 cm
case depth	16,0 cm	18,0 cm
design/volume	BR 10,5 l	BR 18 l
Refl exkanal (d x l)	33 cm2 x 34 cm	52 cm2 x 38 cm
Weight	11,3 kg	12,3 kg
Chassis diameter Nominal	16 cm	20 cm
impedance Voice	4 Ohm	4 Ohm
coil diameter Power at nominal imp.	50 mm	50 mm
	404 W	404 W
Sensitivity cinch max.	170 mV	170 mV
Cinch sensitivity min.	5,3 V	5,3 V
THD +N (<22 kHz) 5 W THD	0,07 %	0,07 %
+N (<22 kHz) Half Load Signal-to-	0,16 %	0,16 %
Noise Ratio (A weighted)	85 dB	85 dB

Furnishing		
Tiefpass	40 - 120 Hz 0	40 - 120 Hz 0
Bassanhebung	- 6 dB/45 Hz	- 6 dB/45 Hz
Subsonicfilter	5 - 35 Hz/12 dB	5 - 35 Hz/12 dB
Phaseshift	reversing switch	reversing switch
low level inputs	.	.
High Level Inputs	.	.
automatic switch-on	•, DC oder Signal •	•, DC oder Signal • (7
start-stop capability	(7 V)	V) •,
remote control	•, Gain	Gain
Miscellaneous	ESPpro	ESPpro

**Top Class 1.0**  
**CAR & HiFi** 3/23  
Price/performance:

**Top class 1+**  
**CAR & HiFi** 3/23  
Value for money: excellent

excellent "Consistently implemented premium active subwoofer."