

Extended Edition

One of the premier audio brands catering to the entry-level market, Norge's products have surprised us time and again. Their new subwoofer was no different either. Read on...

A small workshop, a couple of guys at hand and relentless passion for music and electronics — this is what you need to run a successful audio equipment business, says Eastern Electronics. Their brand Norge Audio manufactures one of the most successful indigenous products that have impressed many in the country, with their world class quality and more importantly, an excellent price-to-performance ratio, which most would agree is their intrinsic code across the multitude of Norge speakers and amplifiers that we have reviewed. This time we present a subwoofer, NSW 100 mkII from them.

OUT OF THE BOX

No frills and jazz — this, we suppose is the only design principle that they follow at Eastern Electronics. Be it speakers or amplifiers, you will not find any embellishments present purely for aesthetics' sake. Same is the case with this

subwoofer as well. It is just a plain simple cabinet in black ash finish with a natural wood feel to it. Take off the grille and you will see the silver-grey colour of the drivers subtly breaking the monotony of the mundane looking cabinet — nothing outstanding to look at, but certainly a pleasant treat to the eyes. The subwoofer stands on four miniscule rests made up of rubber that helps if you have to lift up the subwoofer at times. The rear panel looks quite busy and we probed further.

TECHNOLOGY

Wavecor drivers have always been a major and a very regular component of Norge Speakers. We were not surprised to see a Wavecor here as well. They have used a combination a 7" subwoofer coupled with a 7" passive radiator, which we think is a very good idea. The advantage is that because you are using a passive radiator ie 2 subwoofer drivers, you can take the liberty of using relatively smaller drivers.

In this case, they have used two 7" instead of just one 10" or 12" driver. With a smaller driver, you get the advantage of easier, faster movement and more accurate timing in the lower end. The other advantage is that it is passive and no electronics being involved, you also reduce the chances of any colouration due to electronic components and yet get the desired bass boost. However, don't expect the Norge subwoofer to rattle your walls with its power output of just about 100–150W.

And in the regular stream of things you get connectivity options like speaker port inputs and also RCA input slots for signal coming from your subwoofer. You get control in terms of the crossover frequency and also the most important being volume level.

PERFORMANCE

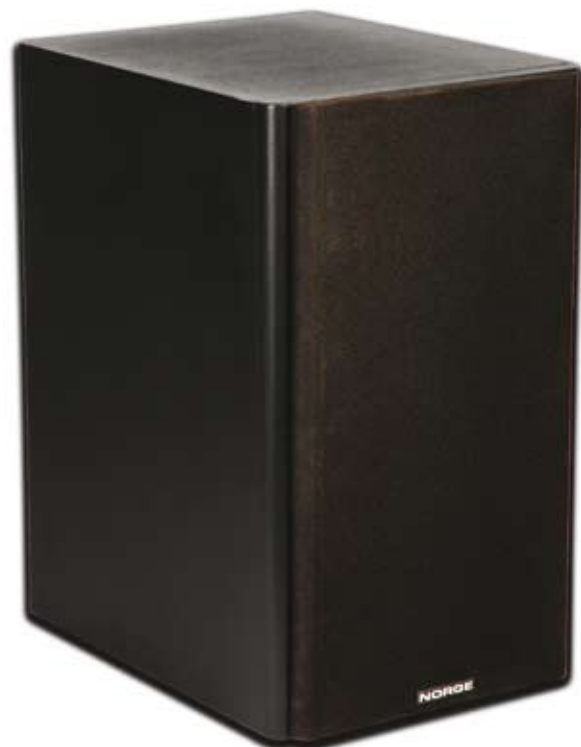
As it turns out, the passive radiator trick does work for the Norge subwoofer. We were playing 'G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra' DVD and throughout the movie, the Norge sub exhibited excellent timing, and

SPECIFICATIONS

DRIVE UNITS	1x7" Active Wavecor
	Subwoofer Driver 1x7" Passive
	Wavecor Subwoofer Driver
FREQUENCY RESPONSE	Upto 600Hz
POWER	100 watt
DIMENSIONS (H X W X D)	16x9.5x12.5
WEIGHT	10 kgs approximately
CONTACT	www.norgeaudio.com

it was this timing that made a lot of difference to our experience, especially in such action flicks, where there is a lot of action like bomb explosions, debris falling, gun shots, etc. It is very important that the lower end is placed right in terms of timing, else the chaos on the screen only leads to a muddled sound with very less intelligibility and accuracy.

Fortunately, this was not the case for the Norge: with its timing, the sub made its impact effectively, be it the gunshots or a bomb explosion, only more profound and definitive. As mentioned in the earlier section, the Norge does not have a whole lot of power packed in its belly. So where the sub lacks is on the punch front, which many of us obviously want while watching the autobots and Decepticon battle it out on Earth (Transformers) or when detective McClane is blowing up a helicopter (Die Hard 4.0) or when the Godzilla is shattering some buildings while



TRIED & TESTED

G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA



One more comic turned into a motion picture, the DVD is replete with some commendable sound. A new age background score, with sci-fi sound effects and some witty dialogues — a perfect recipe for a good sound to test your equipment with.

DVD

NORGE	
MODEL >> NSW 100 MKII	
CATEGORY >> SUBWOOFER	
PRICE >> Rs 11,500	
WARRANTY >> 1 YEAR	
AESTHETICS	WHAT SAY AV?
★★★★☆	Priced reasonably at Rs 11.5k, the Norge subwoofer reiterated the USP of Norge Audio — price-to-performance ratio. It may lack the power to hit hard, but displays impeccable timing, intelligible sound, immaculate lower frequencies and a performance that will keep you glued to your home-theatre forever.
BUILD	
★★★★☆	
AUDIO	
★★★★☆	
EASE OF USE	
★★★★☆	
VFM	
★★★★☆	
AV MAX OVERALL SCORE ★★★★★	

just casually crawling around in the city (Godzilla). But if you like the extension to your system's lower end response, something that most of us would enjoy in intense thrillers 'The Lovely Bones', 'The Dark Night' or even 'What Lies Beneath', then the Norge subwoofer is sure to entertain you.

With the passive radiator working at its fullest, the Norge sub can rumble at quite low frequency. Another advantage of the Norge subwoofer is that it can be a good option for people who want use it in a 2.1 scenario, again owing to its immaculate timing. It will provide the much-

desired extension to the lower end in your stereo system, making it sound more full and complete.

CONCLUSION

Here is the interesting part: the Norge subwoofer is priced at Rs 11,500, which makes it a very attractive deal. Yes, you might not get a pocket full of power, but the deep extension to the lower end and its accurate timing is what you can be proud of. Both these factors are equally important as compared to the power in a subwoofer as they will decide the overall character of your sound. ●

Sumit Bhosle