

THOR'S™
HAMMER



WILSON®
AUDIO

THOR is popularly known as the Norse god of thunder. He is often depicted carrying a short-handled hammer named Mjollnir, a symbol of his awesome power. Thunder is a fitting symbol to associate with Wilson Audio's new state-of-the-art subwoofer. Truth be told, our product might conceivably give Thor an inferiority complex. Thunder, you see, primarily occupies the frequency spectrum from 20-120 hertz. Thor's Hammer (the subwoofer) is capable of reproducing—at full volume—the lowest pipe organ note at 16 Hz.

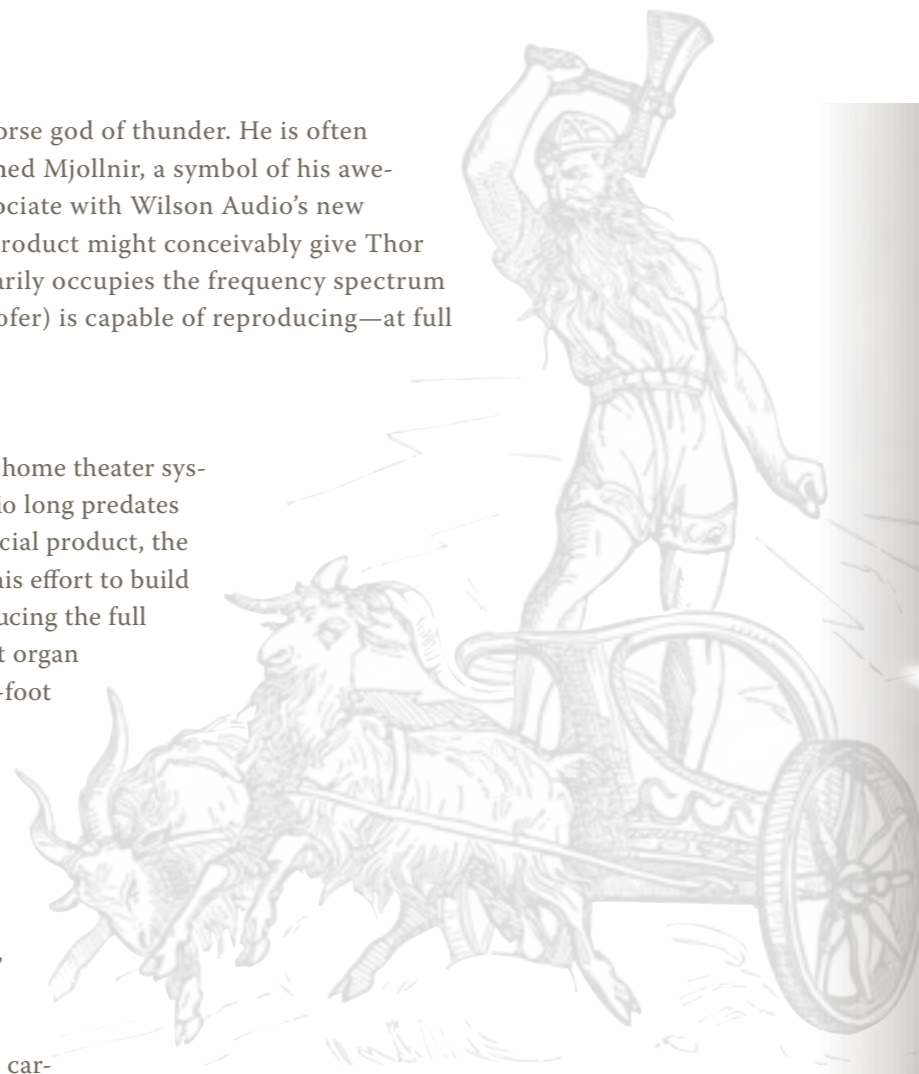


The WAMM



The WHOW

Subwoofers are nowadays *di rigueur* in home theater systems, but their history at Wilson Audio long predates 5.1 audio. Dave Wilson's first commercial product, the multi-cabinet WAMM®, represented his effort to build a loudspeaker truly capable of reproducing the full range of music, including those lowest organ notes. The WAMM employed two six-foot tall bass cabinets. Dave understood from the beginning that—when it comes to reproducing the lowest frequencies with dynamic realism and without distortion—there is no substitute for moving large volumes of air. The coffee table-sized WHOW®, built to complement the early WATT/Puppys®, and the seven-foot tall XS®, designed for the X-1 Grand SLAMM®, carried this uncompromising approach forward.



The XS

+



The WATCH Dog

=



Thor's Hammer

THOR'S HAMMER is the lineal descendant of all these subwoofers, but most significantly, it's the first subwoofer that utilizes the new driver and crossover technology developed for the WATCH Dog® to equal and surpass the performance of the XS in a cabinet that won't overwhelm most rooms. The result is flat bass extension below the limit of human hearing—into the frequency range where the word "visceral" becomes literally descriptive.



As part of a **HOME THEATER** system, Thor's Hammer will bring low frequency sound effects to life in a way most moviegoers can only dream about. The fact is, it will achieve a level of dynamic speed and lack of distortion that far surpasses the best movie-house sound systems. The Wilson ideals of dynamic speed, clarity, and lack of distortion have long made our loudspeakers essential tools of the trade in Hollywood, where they've been used to record and mix the soundtracks of many of the industry's iconic movies.



AUDIOPHILES have long regarded subwoofers as anathema to perfectionist audio systems. Sure, they provide one thing: deeper bass. But they typically do so at the cost of degrading performance in a whole host of other areas. The—not unreasonable—argument holds that since very little musical information occupies the ultra-deep bass region, not much is compromised by reducing output in the bottom octave.

In reality, though, the ideal subwoofer can reproduce more than the lowest pipe organ note. There is a wealth of ambient music cues in the deep-bass region. The ideal subwoofer opens up the soundstage to an extraordinary degree.

The benchmark in designing **THOR'S HAMMER** was simple: create a subwoofer that would be, in every measure, a worthy addition to a music system built around Wilson's flagship loudspeaker, the Alexandria® X-2 Series 2—no easy task since the X-2 extends comfortably below 20 Hz.

That meant primarily two things: First, the subwoofer had to perform with the same alacrity and dynamic range as the Alexandria. Slow, muddy, or distorted bass, no matter how subterranean, wouldn't suffice.

Secondly, it was critical that the Hammer not create out-of-band distortion that would rob the X-2 of its singular glory, which is—arguably—the most revelatory and seductive midrange in the world.

It goes without saying that, having built a subwoofer that integrates seamlessly with Alexandria (Thor extends X-2's bandwidth down to 10 Hz.), we've made a loudspeaker that will, without question, enhance systems built around MAXXs®, WATT/Puppys—or even, if you're into physical extremes, Wilson Audio Duettes™! Thor can even be custom ordered for horizontal placement.

DUAL-SPIDER DRIVERS

might sound like something from a creature movie, but it describes the long-throw driver technology developed for the WATCH Dog and now employed in its larger sibling.

Long-throw woofers allow Thor's Hammer to achieve its 10hz response in a relatively compact enclosure. But the longer the cone excursion, the greater its tendency to generate vectors of movement beyond the piston-like single plane, which is the theoretical ideal. These extraneous cone vectors produce distortion.

The dual-spider driver, which was first developed in a 12.5" design for the WATCH Dog, solves the issue by restricting woofer excursions to a single plane of motion.

THOR'S HAMMER uses two custom-designed 15" dual-spider drivers in a dual-ported cabinet. The resulting distortion measurements are of the order that one associates more with the finest quality amplifiers rather than with loudspeakers!

The cabinet itself is constructed primarily from Wilson Audio's proprietary X material, an extremely dense and hard composite that achieves the seemingly contradictory attributes of high rigidity and high damping. Reducing cabinet resonance to irrelevancy is the *sine qua non* of accurate and grain-free music reproduction.

Thor's Hammer is finished in the exclusive 12 step WilsonGloss™ paint process that gives all our loudspeakers their distinctive automotive quality lustre. Aside from the four standard colors available, the customer can choose from a wide palette of upgrade colors available at a slight surcharge, or, by providing the factory with the desired paint sample, from a nearly limitless palette of custom colors.



Diamond
Black



Desert
Silver



Dark
Titanium



Mercedes
Silver

THE CONTROLLER



SPECIFICATIONS

- Nominal Impedance: 4 ohms
- Efficiency: 93 dB (2.0 Volts @ 1 meter)
- Woofer: 2 X 15 inch dual-spider
- Enclosure Type: Dual Ported
- Frequency Range: 10 to 150 Hz. (+0, - 3dB)

- Height: 59" (149.86 cm) w/o spike
- Width: 20" (50.80 cm)
- Depth: 25 1/2" (65.25 cm)
- Weight: 412 lbs. (186.88 kg)
- Shipping: 545 lbs. (247.20 kg)

The Wilson Controller is the key to integrating Thor's Hammer with a music system. In a dedicated music system, or in a hybrid theater/music system, the Controller is both a crossover and equalizer, and (in the hybrid system) it can switch between theater and music modes, optimizing both.

In problematic rooms, you can access the Controller's powerful bass equalization tool for the reduction of standing waves or room-induced colorations.

The Controller provides variable settings for crossover point and slope. Continuously variable phase ensures proper time-domain integration with the main speakers. Where other subwoofer crossovers are designed to intrigue with digital gizmos, the Controller is the music-lover's solution, enabling the seamless integration of the Hammer with any pair of Wilson Audio loudspeakers.

If the subwoofer will be used exclusively for low frequency effects (LFE) in a home theater configuration, it receives the subwoofer output from your 5.1 or 7.1 processor, and the Controller may not be necessary.

In systems designed around the dual function of music and home theater, the throw of a single switch (also available via a 12 volt trigger) reconfigures Thor's Hammer from one purpose to the other.

The Controller accepts both single-ended and balanced inputs and outputs.

