



*Electro-Voice  
ELX200-10P  
full-range  
loudspeaker  
and ELX-12SP  
subwoofer.*

# ELECTRO-VOICE ELX200-10P

Evaluating a new powered loudspeaker (and a companion compact subwoofer). **by Craig Leerman**

**T**he new ELX200 Series from Electro-Voice is comprised of three powered and three passive full-range loudspeakers joined by two companion subwoofers (both are also available powered or passive). The full-range models have lightweight, compact composite enclosures with internal reinforcement that's designed to minimize resonance and increase rigidity and strength.

They also have an angled side for use as a floor monitor, professional-grade hardware including M10 threaded suspension points for forged eyebolts, integrated pole-mounts, and well-placed handles. EV's patented SST (Signal Synchronized Transducer) technology utilizes a larger waveguide that's placed forward in the enclosure to better time-align the high- and low-frequency components for more precise and consistent coverage.

Both powered subwoofer models are housed in rugged yet surprisingly lightweight plywood enclosures. EV states that the larger unit – the ELX200-18SP – is the lightest 18-inch powered sub with a wood cabinet on the market at 64 pounds.

All powered models in the lineup sport efficient Class D amplifiers and

high-sensitivity transducers designed to produce very high sound pressure levels (SPL) without distortion. Also onboard is QuickSmart DSP providing a single user interface knob to access parameters. Using the companion QuickSmart Mobile app that's available for both Apple iOS and Android, DSP functions can be monitored and adjusted remotely in addition to using the controls onboard the loudspeaker.

## DIMENSIONS & CAPABILITIES

The pair of ELX200-10P full-range powered loudspeakers supplied for this evaluation each incorporate a 10-inch woofer and a 1-inch titanium compression driver matched with a waveguide providing 90 by 60-degree dispersion. Stated frequency response is 53 Hz – 20 kHz (-10 dB) and maximum SPL is listed as 130 dB. As noted, the enclosures are polypropylene, with 18 AWG steel powder-coated grilles on the front. Each unit measures 21 x 13 x 12.6 inches (H x W x D) and weighs just shy of 30 pounds.

The rear panel is outfitted with a DSP screen with single parameter adjust knob, along with two input channels with XLR/TRS combo connectors and a pair of RCA inputs that are both summed and controlled with Input 1 level. They can be used simultaneously with the XLR/TRS inputs. An XLR output, power connector for an IEC cord, and an on/off switch complete the

rear controls and connections.

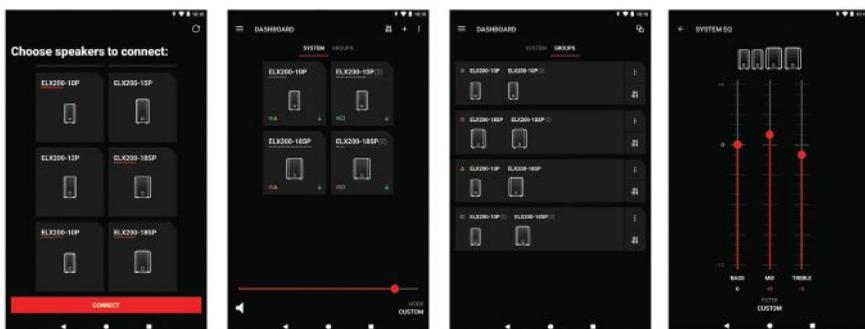
The DSP offers four voicing presets (Music, Live, Speech, Club) and four location presets (Tripod, Suspended, Wall Mount and Floor Monitor) as well as 3-band EQ, sub/top system match crossovers, master volume, and five user presets. There's also visual monitoring of input and master levels along with limiter status.

The dual ELX200-12SP powered subs in this evaluation each utilize a 12-inch woofer. Stated frequency response is 41 Hz – 165 Hz (-10 dB) and maximum SPL is 129 dB. The cabinet is made of 15 millimeter plywood that's coated with proprietary EV Coat, and like the tops, it also has an 18 AWG powder-coated steel grille. Two handles foster easy carrying, and there's a 20 mm threaded pole plate on the top of the enclosure. Each unit measures 16.7 x 17.6 x 18 inches (H x W x D) and weighs 42.2 pounds.

On the rear panel, there's an LCD screen for the DSP, a parameter knob and two input channels, each with an XLR/TRS combo input connector and XLR output jack. An IES connector for power and power switch complete the controls. The DSP provides three voicing presets (Music, Live, Club), sub/top system match crossovers, 3-band EQ, master volume control, and

***A look at the back panel facilities of the full-range box (above) and sub (below).***





Several screenshots showing the capabilities offered by the QuickSmart Mobile app.

five presets. Users can also monitor levels and limiting. As with the full-range models, the powered subs can also be accessed remotely via the QuickSmart Mobile app.

## GETTING ACQUAINTED

My first thought when the delivery driver pulled up to the shop was that he was dropping off four full-range loudspeakers because the subwoofer shipping cartons were so small and light. Immediately I was curious as to how a 12-inch sub would perform, so before the cartons even made it inside, our warehouse manager Wes and I unboxed everything and set up the system by the dock door to check it out.

EV also sent a pair of ASP-58 adjustable loudspeaker poles that mount the tops above the subs, making it easy to get the them in the air without needing tripod stands. We had the system up in a few minutes, and I grabbed a small mixer and computer, linked them in, and set about playing a bunch of test tracks. We focused on the full-range models first, without subs, and they handled every track well. In particular, we were surprised by the low-end extension for such a compact top. Next we added the subs and were blown away at how much bass they delivered.

The DSP also proved easy to navigate. After enjoying dozens of test tracks, I downloaded the QuickSmart Mobile app on to my iPhone. Getting connected was easy – all I had to do was scroll to the Control setting in the loudspeaker’s DSP and turn it on. Then I fired up the app and it instantly found the loudspeakers and let me set up a group. It’s a very well-designed app, intuitive and responsive, and as a

bonus, I found out later that it can control up to six loudspeakers simultaneously.

Satisfied that we understood all of the controls and that everything was sounding great and working properly, we didn’t even load the system rig into the shop for more testing. Instead, it went right into a truck to work a show the next day.

## MAKING IMPRESSIONS

The gig was a medium-sized corporate meeting that we normally serve with a pair of powered 15-inch loudspeakers. The ELX200-10Ps proved to be so light that it was easy to carry both at the same time, one in each hand, from the truck to the ballroom. The ELX200-12SP subs are pretty light as well, but we used a hand truck to load in the pair (we’re not as young as we used to be).

The full-range boxes were placed atop the subs via the ASP-58 poles, and then we quickly wired it up. Using a combination of the QuickSmart Mobile app and some graphic EQ on the console, the rig dialed in easily. I really like being able to access the DSP remotely, and the app would also be handy with a system installed in a venue where it might be difficult to get to the back of the cabinets to make adjustments.

After everything was set up, we played a few demo tracks for the video tech, who wanted to hear the small subs in action. To say he was impressed with the low end would be an understatement. While the meeting was just a few speeches with wireless systems and a podium microphone, we did get to play some music during walk in/out and breaks. The loudspeakers served both spoken word and

music equally well, and had no problems completely covering the 200-seat room.

Next up was a DJ gig with a colleague who needed to supplement his system for a private party. While his pair of 12-inch cabinets with companion 18-inch subs covered the dance floor, our rig served the bar and food area. Right after the gig, we both agreed the EV system sounded far better than his PA, and further, it would have delivered more than enough sonic energy for the dance floor, even with the 12-inch subs. He also liked the app and the fact that the loudspeakers have preset voicings and 3-band EQ, both features that his older powered boxes lack.

## ADDED VERSATILITY

A few days later, we deployed a single ELX200-10P placed on its side using the built-in cabinet angle atop one of the ELX200-12SP subs, a combo that made for a fantastic sounding (and plenty loud) drum wedge. The sub proved to be a good height to get the top close to the drummer but not in his way. I also think the ELX200 boxes would make great compact side fills as well.

Finally, we deployed the full system at a nightclub for a jazz quartet. Normally we handle gigs of this nature with a pair of 18-inch subs and full-range tops, but after working with the EV combination for just a few shows we knew it would handle the gig. The overall sonic result was excellent, and the small subs proved ideal for jazz. The band commented on the sound quality as well as the compact scale of the rig. One other note: We mostly ran the system with the “Live” preset at these gigs, but it’s great that there’s a choice of different voicings.

The conclusion of this evaluation is straightforward: the ELX200 Series delivers great sonic quality at low to high volume levels with ample processing power, all in a compact, lightweight package. Anyone in the market for a compact system should put it at the very top of the list. With five powered and passive models to choose from, there’s something for everyone. **LSI**

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