

Praxistipp **HiFi Test**  
TV-HIFI

Swedish manufacturer DLS is mainly known in these parts as a supplier of high-quality in-car speakers. Only a few people are aware that its portfolio also includes exciting home HiFi product.

**Flatsub One** Active subwoofers are generally heavy, bulky boxes. DLS's Flatsub One is a major exception to this, as it has been developed especially for wall mounting and is extremely flat, with an overall depth of just 165 millimetres. The Swedish engineers at DLS have recognised the need for sound systems that sound great as an upgrade for modern flatscreen TVs, and with the Flatsub One they offer an ideal product as a complement to TVs – and incidentally, these flat speakers also work brilliantly as a pure HiFi system. At the heart of the DLS sound system is the Flatsub One active subwoofer, which with handy dimensions of around 30 x 50 centimetres and an overall depth of around 16 cm can be attached to any wall without problems or positioned inconspicuously in the corner of a room. The Flatsub One is available in a black or white high-gloss finish, and both black and white grill cloth fabric are included in the range, so this subwoofer can be integrated perfectly into any living room. The Flatsub One contains a 16 cm subwoofer plus a 16 cm passive membrane, driven by a power amp outputting around 80 watts. Together with the wall mount, which promotes low bass, thus ultra-flat subwoofer achieves a remarkable performance in the bass range. Of course, the Flatsub One also comes with a volume control, a crossover frequency control and even bass boost – all controls are

## Flat, flatter, DLS

Does a fully fledged stereo speaker kit really exist, a kit that's only 17 cm deep and sits on the wall like a painting? And that's completely active at its best, so you don't need an amplifier? Yes, it does: the Flatsub Stereo One from DLS.

mounted on the front and can be adjusted with ease. The actual highlight of the Flatsub One is its integral stereo power amps, 35 watts each, which allow two stereo satellite speakers to be connected. So we ordered the appropriate Flatbox Midi flat speakers for testing as well. No additional amplifier is required with this combination, music sources can

be connected directly to the Flatsub One. For this, the DLS subwoofer offers two analogue inputs (a cinch jack and a mini stereo jack), high level inputs and a Bluetooth receiver (supplied), which allows music signals to be received from smartphones, tablets and other Bluetooth devices via a USB connection. For our test as a complete package, we used the DLS

### Flat speaker

### DLS Flatsub One + Flatbox Midi

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| • Price     | from EUR 750 (subwoofer)<br>from EUR 480 (satellites) |
| • Sales     | Sound Fashion, Gomaringen                             |
| • Telephone | 07072 912107  |
| • Internet  | www.dls.de  |

### Features

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Design                 | Black, white<br>(available with black and white cloth fabric) |
| • Dimensions (WxHxT, mm) |   |
| • Subwoofer              | 560 x 300 x 165 mm  |
| • Satellites             | 210 x 380 x 92 mm   |
| • Weight                 | 8.5 kg (subwoofer)<br>4 kg (satellite)                        |
| • Woofer                 | 1 x 160 mm chassis<br>+ 160 mm passive membrane               |
| • Midrange speaker       | 1 x 100 mm  |
| • Tweeter                | 1 x 25 mm cone  |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| • Amplifier    | 1 x 80 watts + 2 x 35 watts                   |
| • Inputs (sub) | Cinch jack, mini stereo jack, USB, high-level |

### Assessment

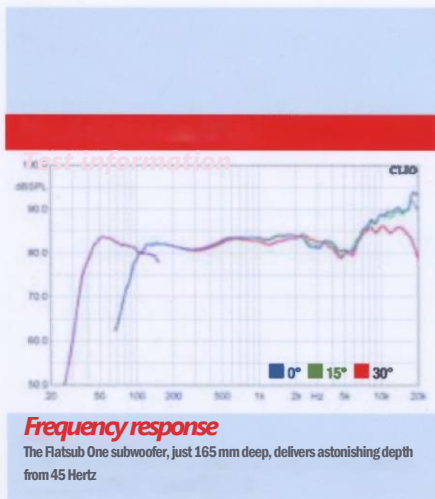
#### Short and to the point:

- + ultra-flat design, integral stereo
- + power amplifier

|          |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|
| Sound    | 50% | 1.2 |
| Practice | 50% | 1.0 |

|                             |                   |                           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>HiFi Test</b><br>TV-HIFI | Midrange          | Grade                     |
|                             | Price-performance | <b>good-very good 1,1</b> |

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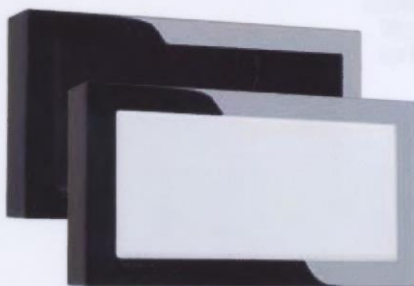
The controls for volume, crossover frequency and bass boost can be found under the cover of the Flatsub One

Flatbox Midi, a two-way bass reflex speaker with an extremely flat overall depth of just 92 millimetres – perfect for wall mounting next to a flatscreen TV.

**Laboratory and practice** In the measuring laboratory, the Flatsub One turned out to be a representative of its kind which simply has to be taken seriously, producing full sound response from just 45 Hz – which is absolutely remarkable for a flat subwoofer of this type. The stereo Flatbox Midi satellites deliver a really well balanced frequency response, although this is clearly exaggerated in the high range, and these speakers should be allowed to sound very lively and sparkling. We were able to confirm this impression in the listening test: the DLS kit is extremely powerful, or even phenomenal in the low bass range for a speaker kit of this size. Action films such as “Battleship” or “Casino Royale” absolutely spring to life. The Flatbox Midi satellites complement the powerful action of the subwoofer in the important neutral and crystal clear registers, although they are a little too razor sharp in the top range.

As a stereo system, the DLS kit shines thanks to its impressive low frequency performance and fresh, crisp presence reproduction. Not bad for such an extremely flat speaker kit.

**Conclusion** As an alternative to conventional, bulky speakers which are hard to position, the DLS kit made up of the Flatsub One and Flatbox Midi satellites is a genuine option. Designed especially for wall mounting, this extremely flat kit is amazing thanks to its substantial bass response and balanced sound. Additional amplifiers are not needed thanks to the integral power amplifiers in the Flatsub One: a really practical tip!



DLS flat speakers are available in high-gloss black and with white and black grill cloth fabric

Michael Voigt

**Dual**  
analoge  
Plattenspieler

**Wie  
damals ...**

**Wir hatten uns ein bißchen  
aus den Augen verloren,  
aber wir haben nie aufgehört  
zu existieren!**

CS 455-1  
Voll-Automatik Plattenspieler



CS 460-4  
Voll-Automatik Plattenspieler



CS 505-4  
Semi-Automatik Plattenspieler



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