

Morel Ultimo 12 \$1215

Does this woofer look familiar? Well it should. It's the Morel Ultimo 12, winner of 2008's Award for SQ Subwoofer of the Year. And guess what? It's done it again and made for one of the easiest decisions the judges had to make. The Morel was pitted against twelve of its peers in last issue's subwoofer Super Shootout and although it was a close call back then, it came up trumps. We guess it goes to show that newer isn't always better, as the Ultimo 12 has been around for a while now.

It's the combination of a massive heavy-duty Hexatech voice coil, lightweight, yet stiff paper/carbon cone, rubber surround, and powerful magnet system that elevate this 12-inch sub to world-beating levels. Mind you, the competition is getting stiffer and, as the Super Shootout proved, the margin between the Morel and the superb highly commended units below (and indeed all the others tested), is rather thin. Especially since the Aussie dollar's fall during the period between review and publication which sees the Ultimo 12 hiked-up in price to \$1215.

The Ultimo digs very deep and as reviewer Greg Borrowman summarised, with "utter detail and timbral fidelity... this subwoofer is something special". Indeed.



www.rmaudio.com.au



Focal 33WX2 \$1499

Here's another subwoofer that has been around for a while. But as anything that comes from French company Focal, it reeks of quality in terms of build, technical specs and, of course, sound quality. From its massive 'Flower Power' magnet system to the 'W' sandwich cone material, the 33WX2 has the engineering goods. Sonically, this subwoofer has truly realistic sound through a wide frequency range and across all musical genres. www.focalaustralia.com.au



Audio Development MM12 \$1500

Reasonably new to the Australian market is the Italian specialist brand Audio Development. This outstanding subwoofer nipped at the heels of the other two here. It's a hand-made to order driver that not only has the sonic goods and the low frequency extension but is extremely efficient, making it a great match for lower-powered amplifiers, while sounding "simply glorious". www.xmplar.com.au