

# Velodyne DLS-4000R

Let your fingers do the tweaking. **BY DARRYL WILKINSON**



When it comes to setup and ease of use, the DLS-4000R is hard to beat, thanks to the included remote control that allows you to adjust phase, volume, and even DSP settings from the listening position. I found the remote eye located on the front panel to be a little finicky, however—with a very narrow viewing angle. As a nice touch, the power light on the front blinks to let you know that the sub received an IR command.

The DLS-4000R's sound quality was beyond what I expected from a \$600 subwoofer. Velodyne credits their Distortion Limiting System, a design that limits audible amp distortion and controls driver excursion to yield exceptional performance. It's a thoroughly musical sub that has

plenty of get up and go with soundtracks. For music, I combined it with a pair of Artistic Audio Mobius floorstanding speakers that naturally roll off below 80 hertz. The DLS-4000R provided welcome extension, with a transition that was virtually seamless. The system performed admirably on a number of tracks from the outlandish *Dr. Chesky's Musical 5.1 Surround Show SACD*, especially on "Organs & Chimes." The DLS-4000R held up equally well on the "Heartbeat" tracks until "20 Hz Heartbeat," where the front-firing port let out a barely perceptible but audible flutter.

There are four DSP mode settings accessible via the remote. I preferred the Jazz/Classical DSP mode for music and movies, but the Movie setting will certainly appeal to those who like their movies loud and bold. As much as I tried—with an action-packed torture test of *Saving Private Ryan*, *The Haunting*, and *U-571*—I couldn't get the Velodyne to shut down or audibly distort.

Velodyne helped start the high-performance subwoofer category over 20 years ago, and now they're

conquering the under-\$1,000 subwoofer territory. Although not the most compact subwoofer on the market, the DLS-4000R packs a powerful punch and offers conven-

nient features that aren't often found at twice the price. Unless you're looking for a smaller package, the DLS-4000R is a first-class addition to any system. **W**

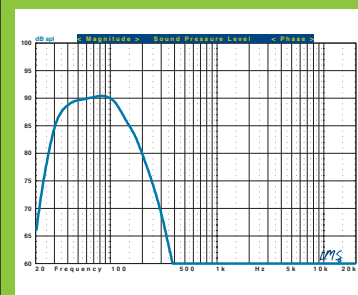
## AT A GLANCE

### → VELODYNE DLS-4000R

Connections:	Speaker- and line-level ins/outs
Enclosure Type:	Vented
Woofer (size in inches, type):	12 (forward-firing), reinforced fiber cone
Power Rating:	200 watts continuous, 400 watts dynamic
Crossover Bypass:	Yes
Available Finishes:	Black-ash vinyl
Dimensions (H x W x D):	18 x 15 x 21
Weight (in pounds):	60

The above listings are based on the manufacturer's stated specs; the HT Labs box below indicates the gear's performance on our test bench.

## HT Labs Measures: Velodyne DLS-4000R



This graph shows the quasi-anechoic (employing close-miking of all woofers) frequency response of the DLS-4000R. The sub's close-miked response in classical mode, normalized to the level at 80 Hz, indicates that the lower -3dB point is at 34 Hz and the -6dB point is at 28 Hz. The upper -3dB point is at 126 Hz with the low-pass crossover control set to direct. —MJP

### VELODYNE DLS-4000R

#### Build Quality

→ Solid cabinet construction with standard vinyl-wrap finish  
→ The remote control is tiny and insubstantial

**88**

#### Value

→ IR remote-control capability is unusual in a subwoofer at this price  
→ Solid performance and exceptionally easy setup

**93**

#### Features

→ The remote control makes it easy to adjust volume and phase and select one of four preset DSP settings

**94**

#### Performance

→ Plenty of power that kept on giving even during the most demanding movie LFE passages  
→ Effortlessly deep, controlled bass

**90**

#### Ergonomics

→ The moderately large cabinet will be hard to hide  
→ The remote control is a big plus when it comes to tweaking

**94**

### OVERALL RATING

**92**

The DLS-4000R is an excellent value with superior sound in a package that's fun and easy to use.

### General information

DLS-4000R, \$599 → Velodyne Acoustics, (408) 465-2800, [www.velodyne.com](http://www.velodyne.com) → Dealer Locator Code VEL