



# Bang on!

**Mark Craven** gets deep down into the groove with this stunning new trickle-down technology subwoofer

**A**s sure as day follows night, a new flagship subwoofer from American marque SVS is followed by a more affordable model utilising trickle-down tech. Last year's 17-Ultra R|Evolution, offered in ported (PB) and sealed (SB) variants, has now been joined by the 5000 R|Evolution, again in two cabinet types. On test here is the sealed-box SB-5000, selling for £2,500 in Black Ash or £2,600 in Black Gloss.

The SB-5000's single, front-facing glass-fibre composite bass driver is a 381mm design. Trickle-down tech includes not only the cone profile and 'long-throw' SBR rubber surround of the bass driver, but also its motor assembly. Dual voice coils are employed, each independently driven by Class D amplification, resulting in a claimed RMS power delivery of 2kW. The amp stage is fed by a new switch-mode power supply with 'conditioning filters' to tackle EM and RF noise, and maintain a smooth voltage delivery. Like all SVS' subs, it's

allied to a DSP engine that handles everything from thermal and current monitoring to D/A conversion, frequency response shaping and customisable six-band parametric EQ.

The last of these is accessed through the free-to-download app, which connects to the hardware over Bluetooth. This also delivers full control – through a neat, intuitive interface – of settings including low-pass filter, level, phase plus Movie and Music listening presets. Alternatively, there's an OLED screen on the rear that covers setup basics.

There are no 'old-school' speaker-level inputs here, SVS instead offers stereo/LFE input (and output) via both RCA and XLR connections. Meanwhile, for those tired of running cables, the SB-5000 is compatible with SVS' SoundPath wireless transmission kit – budget £130 for the standard 2.4GHz model.

## Sound quality

Using a wired connection to a Primare PRE 35 preamp, and paired

with SVS Ultra Evolution Bookshelf (HFC 528) speakers, the SB-5000 is subtle and involving one minute, startling the listener with its power and slam the next. The control and grip exerted over that big bass driver is notable, but so is the subwoofer's sense of dynamism as it really digs into the music.

The aggressive drum 'n' bass of Chase & Status' *Murder Music* sees the SB-5000 grabbing hold of the lowest notes in a manner that many subs can't with the same conviction. The result is a visceral, body-shaking experience made all the better by the SB-5000's superb integration with the speaker pair.

Johan Johansson's *Seeker Of The Serpent's Eye* also lives in the low octaves, but is more about atmosphere than physicality. The SB-5000 subtly excavates the composer's low-end effects, adding a whole other layer to the discordant soundscapes.

Such is its confidence with very deep bass that its performance higher up the audio band might pass you by. With both Jóhan Jóhannsson's *Flight From The City* and the jazz/funk bassline of Guns N Roses' *If The World*, the music is demonstrably weightier, richer and more engrossing with the SB-5000 calling the shots. But for the best example of what this premium sub can bring, AC/DC's *Highway To Hell* seals the deal. Take the SB-5000 out of the mix and the production sounds alarmingly thin; fire it up and, to paraphrase Bon Scott, we're on our way to the promised land...

## Conclusion

The SB-5000 is perhaps the new sweet spot in SVS' lineup, benefitting from its latest driver, amp and processing technologies while still making sense in a typical-sized room. It will make your speakers sound twice as big as they are and etch a permanent smile on your face ●

## DETAILS

**PRODUCT**  
SVS SB-5000  
R|Evolution

**ORIGIN**  
USA/China

**TYPE**  
Sealed, single-driver active subwoofer

**WEIGHT**  
46.3kg

**DIMENSIONS**  
(WxHxD)  
453 x 465 x 495mm  
(with grille)

**FEATURES**  
● 381mm glass-fibre bass driver with dual voice coil  
● Class D amp rated at 2kW  
● App control with parametric EQ

**DISTRIBUTOR**  
Karma AV

**WEBSITE**  
svsound.com  
karma-av.co.uk

## Hi-Fi Choice

### OUR VERDICT

**SOUND QUALITY**  
★★★★★

**VALUE FOR MONEY**  
★★★★★

**BUILD QUALITY**  
★★★★★

**FEATURES**  
★★★★★

**OVERALL**  
★★★★★

**LIKE:** Genuine infrasonic extension with grip and slam; excellent control app

**DISLIKE:** It's pretty seriously heavy

**WE SAY:** It's better-featured and more sonically rewarding than rival subs costing much more. Bravo!