

## Definitive Technology DN12

# Definitive Technology Descend DN12 12-inch Subwoofer User Manual

Model: DN12

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your Definitive Technology Descend DN12 12-inch Subwoofer. Please read these instructions thoroughly before connecting or operating your subwoofer to ensure optimal performance and safety.

## 2. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that your package contains the following items:

- Definitive Technology Descend DN12 12-inch Subwoofer
- Power Cord
- Remote Control
- AAA Batteries (2) for Remote Control
- User Manual (this document)

## 3. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Definitive Technology Descend DN12 is a high-performance 12-inch subwoofer designed to deliver powerful and accurate bass for both movies and music. It incorporates advanced technologies for superior sound reproduction.

### 3.1 Key Features

- **3XR Architecture:** Features dual 12-inch bass radiators pressure-coupled to a 12-inch active driver, providing three times the bass-radiating surface area of a traditional ported subwoofer. This design delivers louder, clearer low frequencies without port noise.
- **1500W Peak Class H Amplifier:** A powerful and efficient digital amplifier ensures dynamic and sustained bass output down to 25Hz.
- **Advanced 56-bit DSP:** Minimizes distortion and protects the woofer at high volumes, ensuring clean



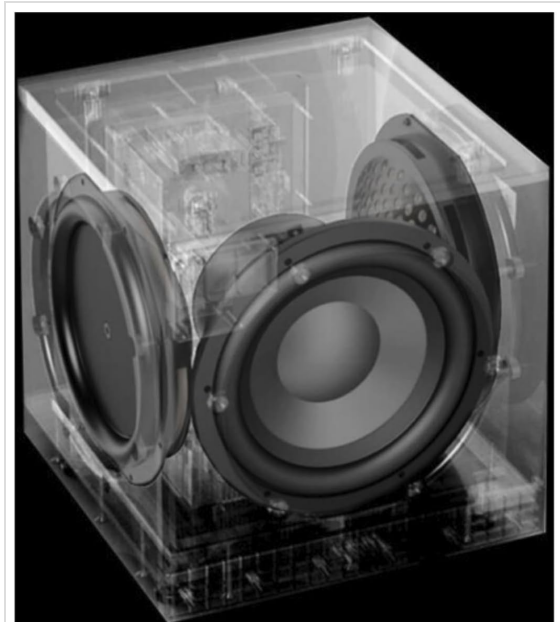
and controlled bass.

- **Intelligent Phase Control:** Offers 360 degrees of customizable phase adjustment for seamless blending with your main speakers.
- **Built-in EQ Modes:** Selectable Flat, Deep, and Loud EQ modes allow for optimization based on listening preferences and content.

## 3.2 Subwoofer Components



**Figure 1:** Front-side view of the Definitive Technology Descend DN12 Subwoofer. This image displays the sleek black finish and the digital display on the top edge.



**Figure 2:** Internal view of the Descend DN12 Subwoofer, illustrating the 3XR Architecture with the active driver and dual passive radiators. This transparent view highlights the innovative design for enhanced bass output.





**Figure 3:** Rear panel of the Descend DN12 Subwoofer, showing all input connections (LFE, Line In, High Level) and control buttons for Volume, Low Pass, Phase, EQ, and Display. Also visible are the Power switch and IR/12V Trigger inputs.





**Figure 4:** The remote control for the Descend DN12 Subwoofer, featuring buttons for Volume, Phase, EQ, Display, and Low Pass filter adjustments. This remote allows convenient control of subwoofer settings from your listening position.

## 4. SETUP

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### 4.1 Placement

The placement of your subwoofer significantly impacts its performance. Experiment with different locations to find the best sound for your room. General guidelines:

- **Corner Placement:** Often provides the most output and impact, but can sometimes lead to boomy or



uneven bass.

- **Front of Room:** Placing the subwoofer near your front speakers can improve integration and soundstage coherence.
- **Mid-Wall Placement:** Can offer a more balanced bass response than corner placement.
- **Multiple Subwoofers:** Using two or more subwoofers can provide smoother bass distribution throughout the listening area.

Ensure the subwoofer is placed on a stable, level surface. The included rubber feet help isolate vibrations.

## 4.2 Connections

Before making any connections, ensure all audio components are powered off.

### 1. LFE Input (Recommended for Home Theater):

Connect a single RCA cable from the LFE or Subwoofer output of your AV receiver/processor to the LFE IN jack on the DN12. This connection bypasses the subwoofer's internal low-pass filter, allowing your receiver to manage bass management.

### 2. Line In (Stereo RCA):

For stereo systems or receivers without an LFE output, connect RCA cables from the pre-out (left and right) of your amplifier/receiver to the LINE IN (Left/Right) jacks on the DN12. In this configuration, the subwoofer's internal low-pass filter will be active.

### 3. High Level Input (Speaker Level):

If your amplifier does not have LFE or line-level outputs, connect speaker wires from the main speaker outputs of your amplifier to the HIGH LEVEL INPUT (Left/Right) binding posts on the DN12. Ensure correct polarity (+ to + and – to –).

## 4.3 Power Connection

Once all audio connections are made, connect the supplied power cord to the AC power input on the subwoofer and then to a wall outlet. The subwoofer is designed for corded electric power.

## 5. OPERATING THE SUBWOOFER

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### 5.1 Power On/Off

The DN12 features a power switch on the rear panel with three settings:

- **ON:** The subwoofer remains continuously on.
- **AUTO:** The subwoofer automatically turns on when an audio signal is detected and enters standby mode after a period of inactivity.
- **12V TRIGGER:** The subwoofer powers on/off in conjunction with a 12V trigger signal from a compatible device (e.g., AV receiver).

### 5.2 Controls (Rear Panel & Remote)

The following controls are available on the rear panel and via the remote control:

- **VOLUME:** Adjusts the overall output level of the subwoofer. Start with a moderate level and adjust to blend with your main speakers.
- **LOW PASS:** Sets the upper frequency limit for the subwoofer. This is typically set between 80Hz and 120Hz, depending on your main speakers' low-frequency extension. If using the LFE input, this control is usually bypassed by the receiver's bass management.
- **PHASE:** Adjusts the phase of the subwoofer output (0 to 360 degrees) to ensure it aligns acoustically



with your main speakers. Experiment with settings to achieve the most coherent bass.

- **EQ:** Selects between three equalization modes:**Flat** (neutral response), **Deep** (extended low-frequency response), and **Loud** (increased output for maximum impact).
- **DISPLAY:** Controls the brightness or turns off the front panel display.

### 5.3 Initial Setup and Calibration

After connecting and powering on, perform the following steps:

1. Set the subwoofer volume to a low level.
2. If your AV receiver has an auto-calibration system (e.g., Audyssey, MCACC, YPAO), run it according to your receiver's instructions. This will automatically set volume, phase, and crossover frequency.
3. If calibrating manually, play familiar audio content and adjust the subwoofer's VOLUME, LOW PASS, and PHASE controls until the bass blends seamlessly with your main speakers without being overly prominent or lacking.

## 6. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your DN12 Subwoofer, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the cabinet. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or harsh chemicals.
- **Dust:** Regularly dust the subwoofer to prevent accumulation, especially around the drivers and rear panel.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate airflow around the subwoofer. Do not block the rear panel or place the unit in an enclosed space without proper ventilation.
- **Environment:** Avoid exposing the subwoofer to extreme temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight.

## 7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your Descend DN12 Subwoofer, consult the following table for common problems and solutions.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound from subwoofer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Power cord not connected or outlet not active</li><li>• Subwoofer not powered on or in standby</li><li>• Audio cables not connected correctly</li><li>• Receiver/processor settings incorrect</li><li>• Volume too low</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check power cord and outlet</li><li>• Ensure power switch is ON or AUTO</li><li>• Verify all audio connections are secure</li><li>• Check receiver's subwoofer output and bass management settings</li><li>• Increase subwoofer volume</li></ul>



Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Bass is weak or muddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incorrect phase setting</li><li>• Low-pass filter set too low or too high</li><li>• Subwoofer placement</li><li>• EQ mode selection</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adjust phase control (0-360 degrees)</li><li>• Adjust low-pass filter (typically 80-120Hz)</li><li>• Experiment with different subwoofer placements</li><li>• Try different EQ modes (Flat, Deep, Loud)</li></ul>
Humming or buzzing noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ground loop issue</li><li>• Loose cable connection</li><li>• Interference from other electronics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Try plugging subwoofer into a different outlet or using a ground loop isolator</li><li>• Check all cable connections</li><li>• Move subwoofer or other electronics away from each other</li></ul>
Subwoofer turns off unexpectedly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overheating</li><li>• Auto-standby feature</li><li>• Faulty power supply</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure adequate ventilation</li><li>• Check if power mode is set to AUTO and adjust sensitivity if possible</li><li>• Contact customer support if problem persists</li></ul>

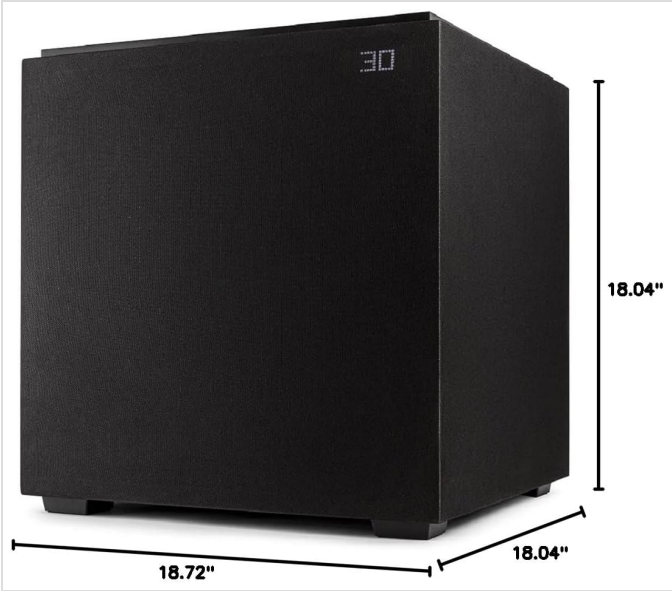
## 8. SPECIFICATIONS

Detailed technical specifications for the Definitive Technology Descend DN12 Subwoofer:

Feature	Specification
Model Name	DN12
Speaker Type	Subwoofer
Woofer Diameter	12 Inches
Bass Radiators	Dual 12 Inches
Amplifier Type	Class H Digital
Peak Power Output	1500 Watts
Frequency Response	25 Hz (and higher, depending on low-pass filter setting)
DSP	Advanced 56-bit
Connectivity Technology	Wired (RCA, High Level)
Inputs	LFE In, Line In (Left/Right RCA), High Level Input (Left/Right Binding Posts), 12V Trigger, IR Input, USB A (Service)



Feature	Specification
Control Method	Remote Control, Rear Panel Buttons, App (via compatible devices)
EQ Modes	Flat, Deep, Loud
Phase Control	360 Degrees Adjustable
Product Dimensions (D x W x H)	18.04" x 18.72" x 18.04" (45.82 cm x 47.55 cm x 45.82 cm)
Item Weight	65.9 pounds (29.9 kg)
Color	Black
Power Source	Corded Electric
Included Batteries	2 AAA (for remote)



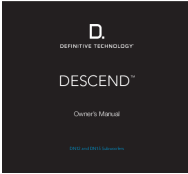
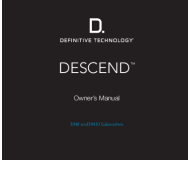

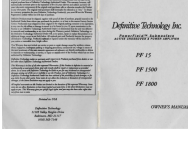
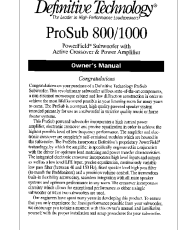
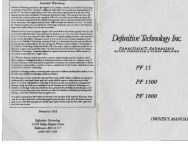
**Figure 5:** Dimensional drawing of the Definitive Technology Descend DN12 Subwoofer, showing its depth, width, and height measurements.

## 9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Definitive Technology products are designed and manufactured to the highest quality standards. This product is covered by a limited warranty. For specific warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Definitive Technology website.

For technical support, service inquiries, or to purchase replacement parts, please contact Definitive Technology customer service. Contact information can typically be found on the brand's official website or in your product's packaging.



	<p><a href="#">Definitive Technology Descend DN12 &amp; DN15 Subwoofers Owner's Manual</a></p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for Definitive Technology Descend DN12 and DN15 subwoofers, detailing safety precautions, setup, operation, positioning, specifications, service, and warranty information.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Definitive Technology Descend DN8 &amp; DN10 Subwoofers Owner's Manual</a></p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for Definitive Technology Descend DN8 and DN10 subwoofers, covering setup, connection, operation, specifications, and warranty information.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Definitive Technology ProSub 800/1000 Subwoofer Owner's Manual</a></p> <p>Owner's manual for Definitive Technology ProSub 800 and ProSub 1000 powered subwoofers. Covers installation, wiring, placement, operation, troubleshooting, and specifications.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Definitive Technology PowerField™ Subwoofers Owner's Manual and Limited Warranty</a></p> <p>Owner's manual and limited warranty information for Definitive Technology PowerField™ series active crossover and power amplifier subwoofers (PF 15, PF 1500, PF 1800). Includes setup, wiring, operation, troubleshooting, and specifications.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Definitive Technology ProSub 800/1000 Owner's Manual</a></p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the Definitive Technology ProSub 800 and ProSub 1000 powered subwoofers, detailing installation, setup, wiring, placement, controls, troubleshooting, and specifications for optimal home audio performance.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Definitive Technology PowerField™ Subwoofers Owner's Manual &amp; Specifications</a></p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for Definitive Technology PowerField™ Subwoofers (PF 15, PF 1500, PF 1800), covering installation, wiring, operation, troubleshooting, and technical specifications.</p>



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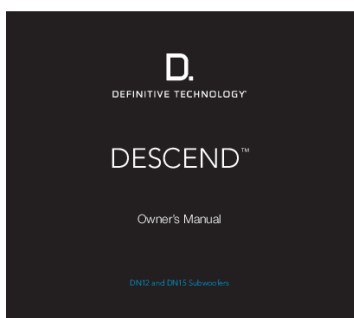
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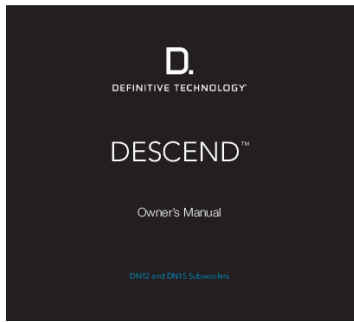
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### [Definitive Technology Descend DN12 & DN15 Subwoofers Owner's Manual](#)

Comprehensive owner's manual for Definitive Technology Descend DN12 and DN15 subwoofers, detailing safety precautions, setup, operation, positioning, specifications, service, and warranty information.

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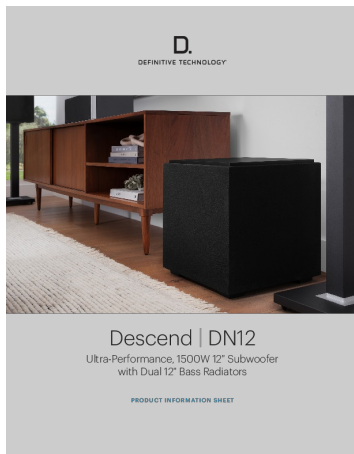
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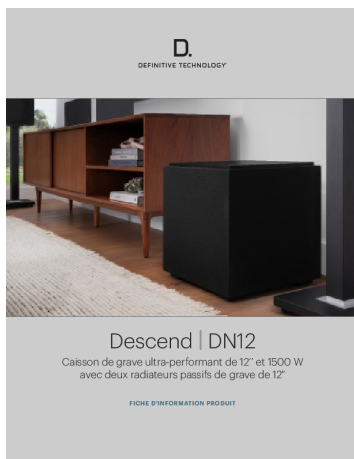
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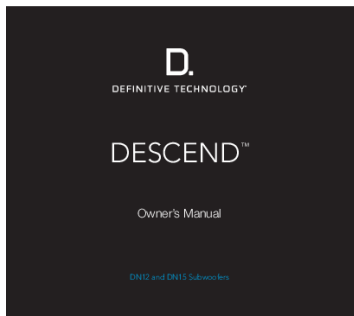


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# IR Codes for Descend DN12 and DN15 subwoofers

Definitive Technology Descend DN12 and DN15 subwoofers are controllable over IR, enabling the ability to integrate and tune bass performance for audio and video scenes.

## REMOTE CONTROL IR CODES


IR controls that are compatible with the DN12 and DN15s included remote controls.

IR Code Base: 0000  
IR Customer Code: 0000

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Descend DN12 and DN15 subwoofers do not ship with a remote control and are not compatible with IR.
- Due to DN12 and DN15's inherent Phase Control™ technology, the selected Phase Code will always be activated if the selected Low Pass Filter is not active.



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IR Codes for Descend **DN12** and DN15 subwoofers Definitive Technology Descend **DN12** and DN15 subwoofers are controllable over IR, enabling the ability to integrate and tune bass performance for audio and video scenes. REMOTE CONTROL IR CODES IR controls that are accessible with the **DN12** and DN15 s in...  
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