

Hsu Research VTF-15H mk2

MSRP: \$1,072 to \$1,292

[VTF-15h MK2 Product Page](#) | [Review](#)



Hsu's venerable VTF-15H MK2 comes as a later addition to this list after our [Youtube discussion](#) of these subs prompted many questions of "why isn't the VTF-15H MK2 on this list?" We initially chose not to add it since the base model doesn't really come close to a \$1,500 price point. However, after some debate, we are including it for the fact that it is highly competitive in performance to any of the other subs in this list, and the real wood Rosenut veneer upcharge plus shipping plus the extended warranty brings the cost to \$1,292 which is close enough to \$1,500 that we will allow it. We get the affinity that many owners have for the VTF-15H MK2 since it is such a strong and high-value subwoofer. It has excellent deep bass extension with a response that is flat to 16Hz as well as very powerful mid-bass output that can exceed 118dB in 2-meter RMS burst testing. Some subwoofers can give you a body massage, but the VTF-15H MK2 will use you as a punching bag if you let it. Hsu does display their own burst-test measurements of the VTF-15H MK2 on its product page, and our own testing of the unit have shown their numbers to be conservative, so we know that it is every bit the performer that they claim. Its patented flared triangular ports have the equivalent cross-sectional area as a 4.5" round port which goes a long

way toward preventing port turbulence, and the structure of the ports also act as reinforcing braces for the enclosure which gives a more inert cabinet as well. As with some other subs on this list, the **VTF-15H MK2** supports variable tuning and can exchange extension to infrasonic bass regions for more headroom in deep bass from 25Hz and above. Like the **Rythmik FV15HP**, the VTF-15H MK2 uses an analog amplifier that instantly translates input into output whereas subwoofers using digital signal processing do have a delay which must be accounted for in calibration. It says a lot about the value of the VTF-15H MK2 that we are adding it to our list due to popular demand based on reasons that we found it hard to argue with.

Honorable mention: **Hsu's ULS-15 MK2** is the sealed version of the VTF-15H MK2 but was already used as an honorable mention for the **VTF-3 MK5** in our recent **6 Best Powered Subwoofers Under \$1,000 for 2020** article, so we can't use it again for this article - or can we? A ULS-15 MK2 dual drive is a discounted package that goes for \$1,499 thereby making our price range (not including shipping), and **two of those beasts would have absolutely stunning output as well as the multi-sub advantages of smoothing out the frequency response for a more even bass sound over the entire room.** Furthermore, two moderately-sized subs might be an easier sell to the spouse rather than one gigantic sub like the VTF-15H MK2. Decisions, decisions...

\$1500 Subwoofer Round-up Comparison Table				
Model	Type	Amplifier	Frequency Response	Price
Outlaw Audio Ultra-X13	Variable Tuning Ported, 13" cone	1,000-watt Class-D	15Hz - 200Hz	\$1,499 (including shipping)
Monoprice Monolith 15" THX Ultra	Variable Tuning Ported, 15" cone	1,000-watt Class-D	(-6dB) 16Hz - 200Hz	\$1,340
Rythmik Audio FV15HP	Variable Tuning Ported, 15" cone	600-watt Class-D	(-6dB at 12Hz) 14Hz - 200Hz	\$1,429 (base price)
Paradigm Defiance X15	Ported, 15" cone	900-watt Class-D	(+/-3dB) 18Hz - 240Hz	\$1499
SVS PB-3000	Ported, 13" cone	800-watt Class-D	(+/-3dB) 16Hz - 260Hz	\$1,400
Emotiva Airmotiv RS13	Ported, 13" cone	1,000-watt Class-D	(+/-3dB) 16Hz - 240Hz	\$1,599
Hsu Research VTF-15H MK2	Variable Tuning Ported, 15" cone	600-watt Class A/B	(+/-2dB) 16Hz - 200Hz	\$1,072 shipped

Conclusion

There is a lot of competition in the subwoofer market in this price range, and there are many good choices. If your subwoofer budget lies in this range and you are having trouble choosing which one to buy, another alternative, and in many ways, a superior alternative, is to buy multiple less expensive subs. With optimal placement spaced out in the room, multiple subs will smooth out the frequency response much more than a single subwoofer, and the most important parameter of sound quality in bass frequencies is a smooth response. Something else to consider is to pick a sub among these and plan to add another later. However, if you only have room for one

subwoofer, and you only have \$1,300 to \$1,500 for a sub, we do hope that we have narrowed down the list of choices for you in this article.

See also:

- [6 Best Powered Subwoofers Under \\$500 for 2020](#)
- [6 Best Powered Subwoofers Under \\$1,000 for 2020](#)