



SPACE AGE SOUNDS

After 15 years of specialising in bass enclosures, subs and finally amps, VIBE has built its first real SQ car, a gorgeous Audi R8, to showcase its brand new Space 3D components

H Vibe component speakers have been available for a while now but the offering lacked a high-end product to enable dealers to up-sell and also to deliver a quality full range sound.

Enter Space 3D.

The Space subs have been immensely successful for Vibe and the hope is that the 3D components will follow suit. For the new Space components, Audi's first supercar was perfect. Vibe may have aimed high with the car but they have kept their customers in mind: the whole installed Space system could be purchased for a lot less money than you think. The intention was to try to leave the majority of the interior as standard as possible and yet have enough space to fit three subs, a three-way component set and two big BlackBox amps. Staging and imaging were always going to be a challenge in such a confined space but Vibe has done an amazing job and achieved impressive results.

The key selling point of the Space 3D components is versatility. They can be used as a two or three-way set, depending on the car and the installer's desired sound result. The tweeter can be mounted over the top of the 45mm high mid driver for a two-way application or separately as in the R8 for a three-way configuration.

Part of the R8 brief was to keep the build subtle after all, who would want to chop up the door panels on a six-figure supercar? The mid bass units of the component set sit at the bottom of the door panel where the OE speaker grille fits. The 6-inch driver has been 'squeezed in and



“ Two Space 8s and one, huge Space 12 pump out more than 1500W of bass ”



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yet managed to retain the stock door handle assembly. Just above that is the 45mm high mid driver with its spun aluminium surround and classy aluminium cone. The tweeters are mounted in the base of the A pillars to give virtually identical spacing between each of the components of the set.

The biggest challenge with the R8 was getting bass into the install without the subs being too obtrusive. The build to hold the subs sits behind the two cream

leather seats and with so little room to play with, the Space 12 sub runs in a tiny sealed enclosure which explains the tightness of the bass response. The big daddy sub of the install, the Space 12 (as used in many Vibe enclosures) is barely being tickled here with a potential power handling of 3000W; it is still nicely driven with 900W RMS.

Vibe aficionados will be familiar with BlackBox amps. The Space 12 sub is run from one BlackBox Bass 4 amp, capable of delivering

anything from 450W RMS at 4-Ohms right through to 1800W flat out. The amp is referred to as 'Class GH' which combines the efficiency of Class D with the warm sound quality of a Class AB. The new Space 3D components are driven by two channels of a Vibe BlackBox Stereo 4. This features Vibe's selectable input sensitivity switching to ensure maximum performance without distortion. This four-channel is running the new front end speakers and the pair of

8in Space mid bass drivers with 110W RMS each (at 4-Ohms). This is more than enough to give good balance with the Space 12.

So there you have it. A supercar that gives out nothing but good 'Vibes'. And judging from the amount of accolades and bouquets that it has been garnering, I am very sure that Vibe may have just given many other component speaker manufacturers something to worry about... 📍



■ All-new Space 3D components show that Vibe can do SQ just as well as SPL



EQUIPMENT LIST

- Factory Audi DVD Navigation Tuner
- 1 x Vibe Space 3D 6" Front Component Speakers
- 2 x Vibe Space 8 Subwoofers
- 1 x Vibe Space 12 Subwoofer
- 1 x Vibe BlackBox Stereo 4 Amplifier
- 1 x Vibe BlackBox Bass 4 Subwoofer Amplifier
- Vibe Critical Link Cabling