

The truth about classical BASS & subwoofers

The lowest notes of classical double bass instruments are :



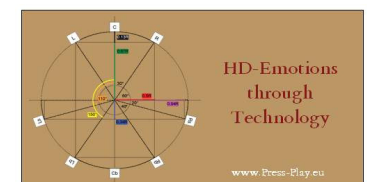
an E1 on a standard four-string basses at approximately **41 Hz**



a low C1 on a double bass with a C-extension at approximately **36 Hz**



a B0 when five strings are used at approximately **31 Hz**



The truth about classical BASS & subwoofers



When typical classical music is reproduced through standard floor standing speakers, the bass-reach of those is more than adequate enough to play up to 41Hz. Thus the use of sub-woofers is not necessary, if they produce sound anyway there's a great possibility that undertones are created or rumble, or subsonic jitter, etc...

Only when classical music has an 88-key piano or a giant pipe organ, reaching 25Hz and 20 Hz respectively; the activity on a subwoofer may become apparent; but never from a standard double bass.

There are a very few exceptions where a 5 string or an extended neck can be heard and maybe a subwoofer might engage, e.g. :

- the beginning of the fourth movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony
- third movement of Gustav Mahler's first symphony
- double bass parts in the Baroque and Classical eras, typically doubling the cello part an octave below

