

Eton sound upgrade for the VW bus - speaker kits for VW T5 and T6

Sound aboard the bus



While the market for Golf & Co already holds a large number of matching retrofit speakers in store, the specialist Eton now takes on the VW bus. We present the first upgrade kits for the newer T5 and T6 busses.

The German Neu-Ulm company Eton was and still is a pioneer in the field of vehicle-specific retrofit loudspeakers - no surprise as they have their own factory in Neu-Ulm and are thus well-equipped. For the vehicle-specific kits, Eton has even launched its own brand Upgrade Audio, thus substantiating the seriousness of the venture. All VW systems are plug & play, that is, they come ready-

made with original VW plugs and are installed in the mounts of the original speakers. The kits are accompanied by instructions explaining also the disassembly of the paneling. There are two different systems for the bus: The UG VW T5 F3.1 fits in the T5 as a front speaker and is a three-way system. The UG VW T6 F2.1 accordingly fits in the front of the T6 and is a two-way system. Both have

In the T5, the midrange/tweeter unit is used, which is installed in the front of the dashboard

in common the 8-inch woofer with a cast-on VW mounting flange and a VW plug connector. It is a typical Eton woofer with a glass fiber/paper composite cone, which is a close relative of the 8-inch lower midwoofer from Eton's universal POW components. The cone is shut off by a rubber dust cap and the motor uses a 1-inch voice coil. In the two-way system for the T6, the 8-inch model runs as a lower midwoofer without any crossover. Obviously, there was ample tweeter place in the T6, thus Eton equipped the T6-compo with a fabric tweeter, which as a special feature has an extra-large 1.1-inch fabric dome. This plus of cone area is a significant improvement over the standard of 1 inch, promising superior sound in the midrange. The upgrade solution for the T5 is considerably more complex. It has mounting holes on the outside of the dashboard for accommodating a midrange



The woofer fits in both the T5 and the T6, operating as a mere woofer in the T5, whereas it runs as a two way midwoofer in the T6



The crossover in the housing is managing the T5 midrange/tweeter unit

speaker. The Eton kit therefore comes with a ready-made midrange/tweeter unit consisting of a small 2-inch midrange speaker with paper cone and a .7-inch tweeter dome. There is also an external crossover to cross tweeter and midrange speakers. The 8-inch woofer is conveniently fitted with its own 12-dB crossover, which, like all components, has the matching VW connectors.

Measurements and sound

In the measuring laboratory there is primarily good news from the two systems. The 8" woofer is doing very well in both kits and scores with a very good frequency curve and little distortion. Due to the very good tweeter, the two-way system for the T6 is in no way inferior to the three-way model in the T5. From a metrological point of view, it is even ahead of it, because the midrange speaker of the T5 system is the limiting factor at higher volumes. With respect to sound, both systems offer plenty of bass. The 8" model plays in a superior and powerful manner, while also the bass reproduction is remarkably clean. The three-way system shows pretty details in the high-pitch range and scores with a beautifully dynamic performance. Snare drums, for example, come into your ear with a crisp sound. But the two-way system also has its advantages. With the great tweeter, it also delivers a carefully elaborated high frequency with



In the T5, the woofer needs this low pass crossover

plenty to offer, while still remaining pleasant even at elevated levels. To this adds a mighty fine spatial impression. All in all, very good systems even for demanding music fans.

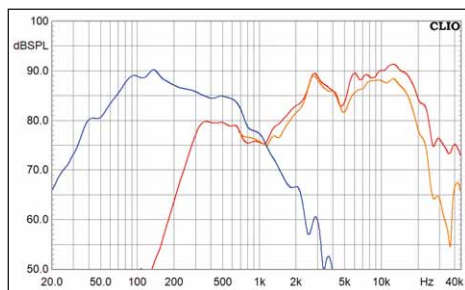
Conclusion

For VW bus drivers, there are now very practical and good options for an improved sound with Eton's UG VW T5 F3.1 and UG VW T6 F2.1. The fun equipment in the T5 is not exactly inexpensive because a lot of effort is required, but in both the T5 and the T6 it is worthwhile making the upgrade.

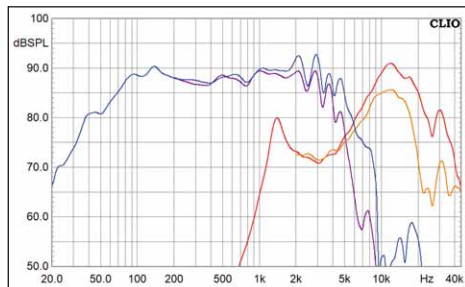
Elmar Michels



In the T6, a nice fabric tweeter is used, the space being sufficient for an extra-large 1.1-inch dome



Eton UG VW T5 F3.1: The three-way system's amplitude is somewhat bumpy, also because the special mounting bracket affects the frequency curve. The midrange speaker operates from about 300 Hz; the tweeter is crossed at about 5 kHz



Eton UG VW T6 F2.1: The T6 two-way system guarantees very smooth and good-natured operation of the 8-inch unit. The tweeter's basic resonance of 1.4 kHz appears to be unimpressed by the crossover

	BEST PRODUCT VW-Speaker CAR, HiFi 5/2018		SOUND AWARD VW-Speaker CAR, HiFi 5/2018	
VW-Speaker	Eton UG VW T5 F3.1		Eton UG VW T6 F2.1	
Distributor	Eton		Eton	
Hotline	0731 70785-20		0731 70785-20	
Internet www.	etongmbh.de		etongmbh.de	
Sound	55 %	1,2	1,2	1,2
Bass foundation	11 %	1,0	1,0	1,0
Neutrality	11 %	1,5	1,5	1,5
Transparency	11 %	1,0	1,0	1,0
Soundstage	11 %	1,5	1,0	1,5
Dynamics	11 %	1,0	1,5	1,5
Lab	30 %	1,3	1,3	1,3
Frequency response	10 %	1,5	1,5	1,5
Max. SPL	10 %	1,0	1,0	1,0
Distortion	10 %	1,5	1,5	1,5
Practice	15 %	1,2	1,5	1,5
Installation	5 %	1,0	1,0	1,0
Crossover	5 %	1,0	2,0	1,5
Workmanship	5 %	1,5	1,5	1,5

Specifications

Basket diameter	200 mm	200 mm
Mounting depth	31 mm	41 mm
Nominal diameter midrange	50 mm	-
Mounting depth midrange	10 mm	-
Dome diameter tweeter	19 mm	28 mm
Housing diameter tweeter	-	42 mm
Crossover slope wf/mid/tw	12/12/12 dB	-/-/6 dB
Tweeter protection	-	-
Tweeter attenuation	-	-2, 0 dB
Fits in	T5 Front	T6 Front
Misc.	-	-
Nominal impedance wf	3 Ohm	3 Ohm
DC resistance Rdc	2,57 Ohm	2,57 Ohm
Voice coil inductance Le	0,29 mH	0,29 mH
Voice coil diameter	25 mm	25 mm
Cone area Sd	222 cm ²	222 cm ²
Resonance frequency fs	65 Hz	65 Hz
Mechanical Q Qm	5,43	5,43
Electrical Q Qes	1,11	1,11
Total Q Qts	0,92	0,92
Volume of suspension Vas	19,2 l	19,2 l
Moving mass Mmss	21,6 g	21,6 g
Rms	1,62 kg/s	1,62 kg/s
Cms	0,28 mm/N	0,28 mm/N
B*1	4,51 Tm	4,51 Tm
SPL 2 V, 1 m	89 dB	89 dB
Amplifier power recommendation	20 - 100 W	20 - 100 W

Rating

Price		500 Euro	370 Euro
Sound	55 %	1,2	1,2
Lab	30 %	1,3	1,3
Practice	15 %	1,2	1,5
Price-Performance		sehr gut	sehr gut

CAR & HiFi

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Verdict

1,2

1,3

„Practical and good sound upgrade for the VW T5/T6.“