



# Vanderkley

## 112EXT

In need of some extra low-end muscle?  
Kevin Sanders unearths a gem.

**Y**ou may have spotted Dutch company Vanderkley at this year's London Bass Guitar Show. Although the company was only started in 2005, they've already built up quite a reputation for their high-quality, compact and lightweight bass cabs and rack-mount VA 615/750 pre/power amp combination. Apparently, company boss Marc Vanderkley makes each 112EXT cabinet by hand. Let's see how it measures up.

### Construction and Features

Even before plugging in the 112EXT, one thing is immediately apparent: it's light! Plonking the cab on the *BGM* bathroom scales reveals

a weight of just 15 kilos. The second thing to notice is the quality of construction. The cabinet is precision-machined from high-quality void-free birch ply, then braced, dowel-jointed and sealed internally so that with the drivers fitted it's completely airtight but for the front port. This standard of workmanship and design is also evident in the fittings: a tough, black, steel grille, stackable corners and smart black carpet covering. A cleverly designed recessed back plate angles the tweeter attenuator and two parallel-linked Speakon/jack inputs up towards you. Inside, mounted on the front baffle, is a 12" 300 W high-efficiency driver with a neodymium magnet assembly (no doubt contributing to the light weight),

**"The cabinet is precision machined from from high-quality void-free birch ply."**

cast frame and waterproof cone. Next to the speaker is the 1" tweeter with its own filter and protection circuit and the circular front port. Although fairly sober in appearance



A 300 watt high-efficiency driver is mounted on the front baffle.



(other speaker cabinets in the Vanderkley range have a natty dark-red front baffle) the overall appearance is stylish and contemporary.

### Sounds

We tried the Vanderkley with several different amps that it might typically be used with, including a Markbass Little Mark II, a TC RH450 and Hartke LH500. The good news is that it sounds stunning with just about anything you power it with. The cab has an 8-ohm impedance, which means that on its own you'll probably only be drawing about half power from your amp. However, the very high efficiency of the driver goes a long way to compensate for this, and for its size the volume levels it can handle are really impressive; even the bottom end from our active 5-string bass sounded punchy and open. Also striking is the quality of tone, and

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with its wide, flat frequency response we think this cabinet will be a big hit with acoustic bass guitar and double bass players. The quality of the mid range in particular really stands out. Arco and pizz double bass were beautifully reproduced, as were chords and solo lines on our Jazz and 6-string basses. In fact, we wouldn't mind betting that several acoustic and semi-acoustic guitarists will buy this cab, given the portability

and quality of its sound reproduction.

### Conclusion

In recent years this type of quality, compact bass cabinet has become more and more popular and several manufacturers now produce compact 1x12 bass cabinets in this format: EBS, Markbass, Aguilar, Genz Benz and Bergantino to name just a few. It's easy to see why they've become so popular too: they offer many real-world advantages including light weight, portability, high power handling, and in most cases an excellent quality of sound reproduction. The Vanderkley 112EXT isn't cheap but it's on a par with similar cabinets from other specialist manufacturers.

Unless you run two of these cabinets together (which kind of detracts from one of the main advantages of this format) our advice would be not to underestimate the power and quality of the amp you drive it with – we would suggest at least 400 watts. Also, careful placement pays big dividends with these compact cabinets – placed on the floor and near a rear wall or, even better, facing out from a corner will give a big boost to the bottom end. The Vanderkley 112EXT, then, is a brilliant bass speaker; and while there are many high-quality cabinets by top manufacturers out there to choose from at this price level, not many can boast being made by the boss himself!



### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

#### VANDERKLEY 112EXT CABINET

**PRICE: £550**

**Built in:** Holland  
**Power:** 300 watts @ 8 ohms  
**Speakers:** 1 x 12" – special-design neodymium, 1" tweeter with variable attenuation  
**Frequency response:** 45 Hz – 16 kHz  
**Sensitivity:** 100 dB for 1 W @ 1 m  
**Dimensions:** 410(h) x 500(w) x 410(d) mm  
**Weight:** 15 kg (33 lb)

### WHAT WE THINK

**Plus:** One of the best compact bass cabinets we've tried.  
**Minus:** None.  
**Overall:** Top-quality construction and components – exclusive.

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Bass Direct Ltd**  
**Tel:** (01926) 886433  
[www.vanderkleyamp.nl](http://www.vanderkleyamp.nl)

### BGM RATING OUT OF FIVE

**BGM RATING** ★★★★★

