



Paul's Product Review

Replacement Subwoofer Speaker

by: Paul Vargyas



The Fiero "Performance Sound" option was introduced for the 1986 model year. It was option code UQ6, and was available on all models except the basic coupe. At the time it was a \$150.00 option, and had a subwoofer box mounted up under the dash corner in the passenger foot well, connected to a separate amplifier that was located behind the carpeting on the left side of the passenger foot well area. The range of tone was controlled by a slider switch (actually a 10K variable resistor) mounted in the overhead console between the switches for the interior lights. The amplifier has a 20 watt power rating. Even though this option was available starting in 1986, it's easy enough to retrofit to the 1984-85 model cars. The system works with any stock Fiero radio, or with any aftermarket radio. The OE speaker had a paper cone, which by now has deteriorated in most all Fieros. The GM speaker (part#16041072), has long been discontinued, and up until now, most available replacement speakers have been a mid-range design, because of the nature of the unusual size (5.25"), and design.

Rodney Dickman has sourced out a specific, aftermarket true Subwoofer Speaker replacement. It is an aluminum core with butyl rubber surround, 60 watts RMS, with a frequency range of 45-15,000 hz. It comes with new gaskets, necessary mounting hardware and complete mounting instructions. I looked at these speakers side by side with an original GM speaker. Rodney's has a 4" diameter magnet vs. the OE 3" magnet, resulting in a total speaker weight of 2lb, 14oz, vs. the OE 2lb, 2oz. Price is \$44.95 plus shipping on Rodney's Web Site, www.rodneydickman.com. I have had OE speakers re-coned in the past, and it cost me more than \$44.95 for a re-cone! Now you can get a better replacement at a very competitive cost! The sub woofer comparison picture shows the difference between the new speaker and the original GM speaker.