

# Peavey CS 4080 HZ Audio Power Amplifier

By Mark Amundson



Just when I about to give up hope for power amplifier sanity, Peavey Electronics comes up with a value-priced amplifier, perfectly made to handle four-Ohm subwoofer loads in stereo. The Peavey CS4080HZ is intended to place 2,040 watts per channel into four-Ohm-rated speaker impedances. The “HZ” suffix is intended to state the amplifier has a relatively high impedance output and is optimized for no lower than four-Ohm loads. And if you know my Theory & Practice columns well enough, you know that I think anyone who runs two-Ohm loads is an idiot—unless they have very short cable runs or very large cables. And the reason I get hot under collar about this is that I see two- x 18-inch subwoofer cabs with four-Ohm ratings commonly daisy-chained with 13-gauge speaker wiring.

So, coming off of my soapbox, the Peavey CS4080HZ is designed by veteran amplifier designer J.D. Bennett, who has tons of experience designing the Crest Pro Series of amps, and the larger Peavey GPS series amps as well. Featuring a conventional power supply and class-H amplifiers, this

two-rackspace amplifier puts out plenty of voltage swing (115Vrms), and a damping factor of greater than 250 at four-Ohms, over a 20Hz to 1KHz range. Other key specs are a 40V/V gain (+32dB), 10 to 100KHz frequency response (+0dB, -0.75dB) and a slew rate of greater than 15 volts per microsecond. Total harmonic distortion is rated at 0.05% at full-rated power at 1KHz, down to 0.1% from 20Hz to 20KHz at a slightly lower power.

## Interfaces

The CS4080HZ is not intended to be a high-end amplifier, but it is keeping more in the CS workhorse amplifier tradition. The front panel features the familiar Peavey lightning-bolt logo (which I adore) in the middle, flanked by no-nonsense perforated grille exhaust ports for cooling air. Stealing a bit of Crest technology, the CS4080HZ features the familiar combination circuit breaker/on-off switch for power control. Next to the logo, channel A and B sections have power-on, signal present, DDT active LEDs next to the rotary and detented-input attenuator controls. Another borrowing of Crest cosmetics is the

very visible blue signal-present LED, which lets you know that the signal has reached the amplifier circuits.

On the rear, the no-nonsense characteristics extend to the 15-amp IEC inlet, with two 80mm vari-speed cooling fans taking in air for the amplifier channels. Up top are the amplifier speaker interfaces with either heavy-duty binding posts or NL4 speak-on jacks. Below are the inputs with Neutrik combination connectors for either XLR or TRS plugs. Between the combi connectors are two recessed switches for stereo/parallel and stereo/bridge operational modes. And to top things off, the rear chassis includes rack ears to further secure the 47.3-pound amplifier to rear rails. And with a chassis depth of only 14.81 inches, you have plenty of space to make convenient connections.

## On the Road

My first check was in the shop, substituting my normal subwoofer power amp with the CS4080HZ in the mains amp rack. Upon firing up and checkout, I had to get out of the factory-set bridge mode and back to

stereo settings. But after that, it was very smooth sailing operationally.

I did several gigs with the CS4080HZ racked up—one gig was memorable because it was outdoors in very hot, humid air. The Peavey CS4080HZ had the low end really thumping to the outdoor crowd, and it even endured two power supply dropouts as a nearby thunderstorm warned us to end the show. During the interruptions, the amp was totally silent going down and coming up from the lightning-induced disruptions.

Overall, the CS4080HZ nails just about all the qualities I want in a 2,000-watt-per-channel amplifier. Of course, the toroidal transformer in the power supply brings with it substantial weight, but it is a very nice trade when price is a big consideration for purchase. Other than the weight of the power supply, there should be nothing stopping any sound company from buying truckloads of these amps for road and install usage. Yes, the Made in China words are on the back, but J.D.’s design quality is very evident and trumps manufacturing anywhere, especially with the five-year warranty. 🎧

**What it is:** CS4080HZ Audio Power Amplifier

**Who it’s for:** Professionals and musicians who need very big watts and have very big budgetary restrictions.

**Pros:** Sounds great, rugged, small size and 2,040 watts per channel.

**Cons:** None.

**How much:** Peavey CS4080HZ \$1,499.99 SRP.