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Raising the bar for battery performance (again)

For decades the battery of choice for portable sound systems was sealed lead acid (SLA). Unfortunately, in otherwise well-designed systems, SLA batteries were also the primary reason for system failure. While cheap and readily available, their long-term reliability has always been an issue. Heavy, toxic to the environment, and failure prone, it was time to explore alternatives. In 2006, after considerable research, Sound Projections introduced nickel metal Hydride battery (NiMH) technology to the portable sound market with the model SM-3neo. Boasting an industry first 3 year battery warranty our expectations for the SM-3neo were not just met but exceeded. Customer down time related to battery failure was dramatically reduced.

Six years later battery technology hasn't stood still and neither have we. In September 2012 we began shipping the SM-4neo with Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries. A safer variation of the Lithium Ion battery that powers most laptops, the LFP promises even better longevity than the NiMH battery. Enhancements include up to 2000 charge / discharge cycles, lower weight, and a built in BMS (battery management system) that monitors critical battery parameters and automatically adjusts for best performance. We will continue to offer a 3 year warranty on the new battery.

The following chart illustrates some key differences between battery types for a 12V / 12Ah battery.

LFP VS. SLA Battery

<u>Specification</u>	<u>Lithium Iron Phosphate</u>	<u>Lead Acid</u>
Battery Weight (standard):	2.5 lbs.	5.5 lbs.
Battery Weight (extended life):	3.6 lbs.	8.6 lbs.
Charging Cycles:	1,000-2000	150 -300
SP Warranty:	3 years	2 years
Toxicity:	Low	High