
Subject: Re: An alternate take

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2004 20:06:22 GMT

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HI DR, YOU are right. The other two (the zen and the ASUSA) use pentodes wired in single-ended triode mode. I am not sure if the extremely low levels of distortion in ss amps are at all audible. I think some scientific studies have shown about 0.5% THD is audible for pure sine waves, much higher for music. So, if an amp is producing THD of 0.2%, its components (whether odd or even order) may not matter. I think SETs produce more involving sound because of the 3 reasons I mentioned in my post above. In a sense, they offer equalization that is preferred by many of us. As a fond SET owner & listener, I am obviously on your & John's side. I just don't think that SETs actually provide better fidelity, in fact I think they provide appreciably worse fidelity...they just SOUND better, in other words they manipulate the signal so it sounds good. For example, audible second order distortion actually makes a signal SOUND "fatter" or weightier....which I personally like....makes the illusion more real! But if the goal is fidelity, then I at least have to go with solid state. IF the goal is enjoyment, then it doesn't really matter. As I said, I usually listen to my SET 45, which probably measures god awful, but who cares?-akhilesh
