
Subject: Northcreek Caps in Pi Speakers

Posted by [FredT](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2006 10:45:55 GMT

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There's no doubt in my mind that upgrading the caps in the tweeter signal path is the most cost effective upgrade you can do with any speaker that uses Solens or other low cost caps. It's far more effective than upgrading cables. I went the semi-economical route in the Pi 3's: I used Solens bypassed with 1uF Harmony's in the tweeter signal path. For the .47uF L-pad resistor bypass cap I used a Dayton film and foil cap. I'm glad you brought this up. I have been meaning to replace the Solens in the 3 Pi's, and since I plan to take them to the GPAF I now have a deadline for doing it. I'm using a Fountek ribbon on top of the 3 Pi's as a supertweeter, and since the only cap in that crossover is a low value (1.0uF) I could afford an Audiocap Theta film and foil, and that upgrade made a world of difference compared to the Solen I started with. (It's much cheaper to upgrade the caps in a supertweeter tweeter that crosses over at 12khz than the one for the Eminence compression driver that crosses over at 1.6khz). Do you recall I built a pair of 1 Pi Towers recently. I already had a matched pair of 10uF Northcreek Zens, so last week I upgraded the tweeter caps, and the difference is clearly audible. That change made a significant improvement in the treble smoothness. By the way, those speakers sound remarkably good for the \$200 it cost to build them. I wish I had room in the truck to bring them to the GPAF - after hearing them I believe Wayne might rename them the "One Pi Butt kicker Bass Option" and start offering the tower plans as an optional enclosure for the One Pi kit:)
