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Subject: Re: Opinions needed: Aluminum or Pascalite?

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 25 Sep 2004 13:57:00 GMT

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Unless you have availability to NOS, I don't believe pascalite is still available. I have the 908 with symbiotic and they don't sound as awful as people say. That said, the straight aluminum is the one to go with for home use but it is no longer available either. For PA the pascalite or symbiotic. (if you can find them) Greatplains audio is the place I have had the best luck with. Bill worked for Altec and has most of the manufacturing equipment from the day. Others make replacements also, but I have not tried them. Another feature of many drivers with symbiotic diaphragms that can be improved on (for home use) is under the covers. Remove them VERY carefully and look. If you only see shiny metal dome and there is a thick felt pad in the back of the cover, just replace the diaphragm and close it up. If you see a plastic looking dome and there is no felt in there, I would suggest the following. (again, for home hi-fi use) When you order your diaphragms from Bill, tell him you want the parts to remove the loading caps as well. The loading cap IS NOT a capacitor, it is that plastic thing covering the dome. The parts should be: 2 felts to line the back of your covers, and six short screws. When you remove the old diaphragm and the plastic thing, do not reinstall the plastic thing. The new short screws will make up the space equal to the thickness of the plastic thing you are leaving out. These plastic loading caps were used in an effort to make heavy use drivers live longer. These same use drivers were usually equipped with the symbiotic diaphragms as well. Both measures increased heavy use reliability, but hampered high frequency transients and extension. If your use is home stereo try this advice. However, if PA is your use, I would call Bill @ Greatplains audio and ask. With the loading caps removed and the "regular" aluminum diaphragms installed, they will be basically a 902-A sonically. Hope this helps. If any is unclear, Bill can explain it better than I.

Russellc

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