Subject: Re: Audio-philes are funny people
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 17 May 2005 00:12:48 GMT
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Thanks for the vote of confidence Colin; My fraction of a cent worth of opinion is this. Don't build until you find a way to hear the amp. These amps ain't cheap as kits and if you don't like it you bought it.The word on the DRD is it is very laid back. I can only guess but if it sounds like the amp described in VTV that the DRD is based on; then it has a very distinct sonic personality. Probably good for a CD only system.I personally am not a huge fan of the Bottlehead stuff. I find it hyper-detailed and fatiqueing; your mileage may vary. But considor this, why are bottleheads always searching for speakers that work well with those amps?I am not familiar with the other amp.There is no re-sale in DIY but; here's the rub. The Guinevere pre-amp is the most enjoyable pre I have ever been exposed to. Colin; you have it; offer up a listen.If Doug can come up with that good of a piece w/o half-trying, then I would trust any of his amp designs. The Merlin runs about 550/650$ to build. And those transformers can be used over and again for many types of amps. You can re-use or sell the tubes. So the real possible loss is about 350$.Absolute worst case scenario; the amp is not the best you have ever heard; it most certainly will be thoroughly listenable.As far as other kits go; I find them expensive for what you get and I would probably just buy a good used amp rather than get too involved in putting together someone elses favorite amp.Or try one of the good Japanese guys like Sun or Asano. They run about 1200$ for a kit but they use very good trans and exceptional parts quality. They also have excellent re-sale value.Thats all folks.