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Subject: Another perspective

Posted by [Earl Geddes](#) on Fri, 24 Dec 2004 03:25:19 GMT

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After numerous studies of nonlinear distortion, in loudspeakers and otherwise, I have concluded that nonlinear distortion is not a primary factor in sound quality. This agrees with the work of Shawn Olive at Harman. What, IMO, does make a difference - directivity. Most High efficiency loudspeakers are more directional because they tend to be bigger. This directionality helps to minimize room reflections and diffractions which are audibly very negative factors. But high directivity in and of itself is not enough, it must also be well controlled. Both the direct response and the power response have to be equal and this must be done with a high degree of directionality to achieve good imaging and presence. But the room itself must also be done right or the loudspeaker won't make a whole lot of difference. No, I don't think that it's the high efficiency of larger drivers and waveguides that matter, but it is their inherent narrower directivity that is the primary factor.

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