Subject: Favorite flavors
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 21 Jan 2005 19:54:32 GMT
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I'm looking to get some opinions on favorites, specifically horn shapes and dispersion patterns.
Or, for that matter, if your favorite configuration isn't a horn, I'd like to hear those opinions too. But
more importantly, I'm looking for your reasons why you like that particular horn, shape or speaker
configuration.My favorites are horns with fairly wide dispersion. I don't particularly care for horn
setups (or any kind of speaker, for that matter) that requires the listener to be in a very small
"sweet spot." When I listen to a system, I rarely sit exactly on-axis, and sometimes the owner will
instruct me to move into the preferred spot. But I am actually sitting there because I judge a
system by off-axis performance as much as any other attribute.To me, part of the goal is to make
the system sound as good 10°, 20° and even 30° off-axis as it does on-axis. I am looking for
a speaker that charges the reverberent field uniformly because it sounds far more natural than
one that doesn't, in my opinion. If you have to sit in a half-meter wide sweet spot for the system to
sound good, I'm not particularly impressed.I know that some, if not most, audiophiles expect the
listener to be seated in that one "perfect spot." Why would someone settle for only having good
imaging and proper tonal balance in a "sweet spot" when they can have that same kind of
performance over a wider range? I expect this kind of thing from planars and soft domes, but
from horns? I see it as a throw back to technologies of 50 years ago. A good horn system has
directionality that controls the pattern and fills the room without excessive wall and floor
reflections. Horns offer a possibility of creating a good field of sound instead of a good line of
sound.So that's the flavor that gets my vote. I like horns, and I like them designed to cover the
room. In addition to tonal balance and low distortion, a uniformly charged reverberent field is very
important to me.