
Subject: Making some progress on my PVC pipe/ RS 1197 project

Posted by [lon](#) on Thu, 05 Feb 2004 18:32:00 GMT

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I suppose this is my first scratch project. I've built kitover the years (crossovers prewired) and modified cabinet/speaker combinations. Had a successful mod of some old Nakamichi enclosures that went with their mini receiver by replacing the woofer with the Fostex FE87e and knocking a big hole in the backs. This worked out well and I'm using those as my computer monitors. I got a couple RS 1197's when they were being closed out for (I think) \$3 ea. or so. And I got on to the PVC pipe idea because it requires few tools and no power tools at all. The PVC's I've seen have a small baffle made of MDF. To fit the speaker to a 90 degree elbow, I used a toilet adapter with a short ring of 4" diameter pipe as a baffle. The whole thing (I've completed one for testing) consists of RS 1197 with foam insulation as a gasket screwed to the toilet ring and inserted into the 90 degree elbow. I have a line length of only about 50 cm total and that includes a PVC T-fitting at the base which acts as a 4" diameter port. I intend to make the final length 101 cm as the example project shows. But to test I just used a piece of the PVC to see how it sounded. The rest of this test rig is as sparse and inexpensive as the speakers: I have a Radio Shack SA155 mini amp and a turntable from Pioneer that a friend gave me. I purchased a Grado Black cartridge and that's my source for now. Playing some mono LP's through the single speaker initially gave what I felt was a muddy end to string bass and the low frequencies in general. (This is still the 50 cm overall length.) I've been able to smooth out the sound of this little driver with some dacron stuffing in the 90 degree elbow and nothing else down the length of the line. My question is: will increasing the line length to typical TL proportions make the lower end more crisp (string bass sounding like a string bass and less muddy?) There's a long way to go on this but it has been a big learning experience.

an example of a PVC pipe speaker