Subject: Re: "Shuddup Sylvia, I can't hear....."
Posted by Poindexter on Sat, 17 Sep 2005 05:32:44 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Like a lot of us who grew up on motorcycle races and rock concerts, you have a very hard time hearing speech detals over background noise. I have forty years in workshops into the bargain, and I need a black background from which to pick intelligent speech. There are more than one measure(s) of hearing acquity. The above is one. Another is the standard test of threshold of hearing / frequency. In my youth (say, age thirty), the ultrasonic burglar alarms used by many retail stores would drive me right out of the place. Fortunately, these monstrosities are no longer used, so I do not have to bemoan the loss. My pal Ginger, the musician, loves to tease me about this, cupping her hand by her ear and saying, "What?, what?" when I ask her to repeat. Then, she plays her mandolin ukulele for me (which I made for her), and I ask, "Is that fourth string right? It sounds cold, like a steel (rather than brass) wrap." She stares at me like an alien, and shows me the uke; steel-wrapped fourths. "They didn't have the brass .028", I had to take the steel. Damn you!"Threshold/frequency is not sonic accuracy. Raw aural acquity is not skillful listening. I would be afraid to take an aurigram at this point, fearing that it would disqualify me as a purist hi-fi gooroo; but I can listen to the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra play Bach in Ordway MT, and hear the tone of each individual fiddle. Enjoy the music; let it bring you bliss, which you rightly deserve,Poinz