Subject: Maggies vs. Line Arrays
Posted by Jim Griffin on Mon, 30 Oct 2006 01:15:27 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Tom,While Maggies are line sources (think line arrays wherein the array becomes continuous) which mitigate the combing issue normally associated with line arrays. You still have the same line height considerations (near field distances, etc.) as detailed in the white paper. Now some differences between line arrays and Maggies. 1. One such difference is that line arrays will normally be more sensitive. Most Maggies models have sensitivities in the 85 to 86 dB (4 ohms 2.83 volts) range. Hence, Maggies will likely need an amplifier with 200-400 watts output to really sing. Line arrays often will have sensitivities in the mid 90's dB SPL so the amplifier needs are significantly lower. With shorter ribbon tweeters the line array sensivities can be in the upper 90's. You'll find that line arrays will be more dynamic than Maggies because of their higher senitivity and increased dynamic capability. 2. Maggies are dipolar so you have to allow extra space from the front wall in your listening room for the rear wave to disperse. Line arrays can usually realized as monopolar radiators (box enclosed) so you often have more flexibility in room placement, i.e., closer to the front wall. Of course line arrays can also be dipolar with an open back cabinet. 3. Bass capabilities can also differ between line arrays and Maggie. Unless you go with ported cabinets and a fairly large woofer (equal to or greater than 6.5" diameter) don't count on the bass being lower than about 50 Hz with a line array. Typically, Maggies will not go much lower than 40 Hz except for their two top of the line models. Hence, both line arrays and Maggies will need a sub to plumb the lowest bass octave or so. Whether you like the unboxed sound of Maggies or the box sound of line array woofers, is a choice of the listener. I'm sure that others can suggest other differences.Jim