
Subject: Pi Sevens up and running!

Posted by [Tim Barnes](#) on Tue, 07 Aug 2007 17:46:55 GMT

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At the weekend I finally was able to install my new Pi Sevens in my living room. Here's a first set of impressions. My system is as follows: * Townshend Rock III turntable with Grado MM cardtride. * EAR 834P phono stage* Naim CDP8i CD player* First Sound passive "preamp"* Music Reference RM9 tube amplifier* Mixed cables - DIY solid silver, Cardas speaker cablesThe speakers replace my Thiel CS3.6 floor-standers, in roughly the same locations (corners). The room is sub-optimal in that the speakers are in corners that also house bookcases, and there's a baby grand piano between the speakers along the same wall. However, there's no sign yet of any piano-contributed vibration. I've been listening to lots of stuff: Beatles, Tom Paxton, King's Singers, Lieder (Brahms, Schubert), Wagner, Gilbert & Sullivan, Dave Brubeck, and a mix of CDs and records. The first impression is of a very delicate and accurate mid-range. The King's Singers have never sounded better. The mid-horns seem solid and unfussy. The treble is clear, but I think a bit recessed, and definitely less audible than with the Thiels. The bass I'm not quite sure about yet. Clearly the power of the woofer is exciting a couple of room modes, and I will need to build some tube traps or something, and possibly alter the room layout a bit (I'm sitting against the back wall, which is probably not ideal). The most obvious effect is on plucked bass lines, and also some coloration on male voices. But except for the notes that are too loud, the bass seems clear and unobtrusive. I don't know if I'm really getting all the extension I was expecting - this may be because of the bookcases, or (and I hope not) it's possible the cabinets leak. I have been unable to detect much port action so far. The other major change is the increased level of dynamics. I find I have to adjust the volume for every recording separately - I never needed to do that before. Popular recordings with lots of compression need to be turned well down. Classical recordings with wide dynamic range can be turned up and I still get good pianissimo, with exciting climaxes. The bass excitation limits my ability to listen loud - especially with bass or baritone voices. I should mention my long-suffering wife's responses - she has three (presented in unvarnished form): 1. "They are bigger than you led me to believe" 2. "They are uglier than I thought" 3. "They sound much better than the old speakers." ...so I guess I get to keep them, but I will need to finish the veneering and clean up the wiring etc. So once again, Wayne - thanks for all your support through the process, and thanks for the design. The project was worthwhile, and has given my music collection a new lease of life. I look forward to more projects - office and garage speakers, and perhaps some room acoustics modifications. Regards, tim
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