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Subject: Re: Particle Board?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 24 Nov 2010 00:17:45 GMT

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To tell the truth, I've always liked the acoustics of MDF, and even some particle board or chip board products. Sure, there are some kinds of particle board that aren't good, for some of the same reasons that cheap plywood can be a problem - the potential to develop cracks or voids (with internal debris) that buzz when vibrated. But chip board that is bonded and compressed well is pretty good stuff, acoustically, because like MDF, it is characteristically non-resonant. It's a relatively homogenous collection of various fibers bonded together with glue.

As for the grilles, I prefer not to use them but I admit they can provide some protection and can even be attractive. I like the looks of raw drivers, but not everyone else does. However, there's no getting around the fact that the grille is not acoustically transparent, so it creates a self-reflection and this usually makes response anomalies. I wouldn't mind slight attenuation, but

the tweeter, response problems can range from mild to severe. Still, if the grilles are removable, you can decide when they're important to have on and when you'd rather take them off.