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Subject: When to Recap?

Posted by [Adveser](#) on Tue, 15 Mar 2011 00:10:14 GMT

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As some of the regulars may be aware of, I have a 20 year old pair of loudspeakers.

After doing some reading and discovering my past belief that capacitors last "for life" is somewhat incorrect and that they lose 50% of their ability. (I think the wiki page is referring to it's tolerance) I have started to worry that it is time to recap the crossover network.

I have a couple questions if anyone knows the answers:

1. Do I have to recap speaker crossovers every decade or so or on a timeframe?
2. Is the "condition" of the capacitor relevant to a speaker crossover and the performance of the speaker?
3. Is the cap's performance dependent upon the amount of current going through it? I ask because I have 240watt speakers and an amp that is operating at no more than 25watts. It would hardly be worth it if I am not driving the speakers anywhere close to their limits if that is the only time it would matter.

I know a lot of you know a lot about crossovers. I don't know much more than how they work. Personally I am only concerned with the caps operating as intended and am not really interested in upgrading to better quality components. I may upgrade to a "precision cap" if such thing exists, but I was advised by my college prof. not to buy the hype regarding gold caps and that sort of thing.

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