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Subject: Re: To measure or not to measure (and what good is it anyway?)

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 18 Jul 2011 04:00:09 GMT

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I'm always happy to help when I can, or to just hang out and watch a guy post his progress on ART, sort of cheer him on. I really love this stuff. I'll admit my time is much less my own these days, so I am not nearly as active as I was, say five years ago. But I kind of have my loudspeaker line nailed down anyway, mostly working with mature designs.

Still, when I see a guy start trying to move from blind cut-and-try to modeling to measurements of physical models, it's gratifying. I always love to see their progression over the years, and I've made a lot of really good friends here along the way. This forum tends to draw good folks.

But I've seen some of the other forums get kind of crazy. It's pretty easy to get sideways in acoustic measurements, because there's a lot of ways to get them wrong. And with all the misinformation out there, a fellow can get going down the wrong road, even with all the best tools.

Amplifier measurements seem like they'd be a little more cut and dried, but I have seen a few amplifier measurement threads on various audio messageboards that I thought were sort of goofball-on-crack. One in particular was this guy obsessing about passing a "perfect square wave" through his SET amplifier. It had a slanted top and he just couldn't get it straight.

The poor guy was going through all these circuit hacks and amplifier mods, and of course, lots of people were giving their "advice" on how to get that perfect square wave to go through. Then finally, one small voice appeared, with a short post that went completely overlooked, saying "it's the natural band-pass of the coupling components, particularly the output transformer." He said the slant was actually normal and expected. But was this good comment taken? No. The thread went on in its meandering insanity.