Subject: 4 Pi Tweaks?
Posted by jimbop on Fri, 06 Apr 2007 13:20:20 GMT
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I recently acquired a pair of Theater 4's. According to the previous owner, they were built stock (to the plans). Are there any successful mods or tweaks that I should be aware of?Jim D.

Subject: Re: 4 Pi Tweaks?
Posted by Matts on Fri, 06 Apr 2007 17:16:35 GMT
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I rebuilt my xovers with all "boutique" parts, and they sound much better with SET amps. However, it's not an exercise in practical cost/benefit analysis, as Wayne already supplies good parts and the upgrades are expensive. One change I made first was upgrading the shunt cap on the woofer, and that was worthwhile in itself.

Subject: Re: 4 Pi Tweaks?
Posted by Bill Epstein on Fri, 06 Apr 2007 20:55:34 GMT
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Changing the Solen .47uF (?) attenuator cap for an Auricap was inexpensive and worthwhile.

Subject: Re: 4 Pi Tweaks?
Posted by FredT on Sat, 07 Apr 2007 11:11:15 GMT
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The Theater series Pi speakers never sounded harsh or fatiguing to me, at least no more so than some highly regarded mainstream speakers like Magnepans, Vandersteens, etc. But I heard a big improvement, especially in the treble frequencies, when I upgraded all the caps in my Theater 3's. I used all Northcreek caps, which are no longer available. I believe the most cost effective alternative using currently avaliable caps would be Sonicaps, but they are quite a bit more expensive than the Northcreeks that I used. The effect of this kind of upgrade will be an overall smoothing of the treble with reduced glare and a more audible and realistic decay of percussive sounds like cymbals. A more cost effective option that would result in an audible improvement would be to use a "cascade" of Solens and Sonicaps to replace each individual cap. For example, you could replace a 22uF cap with 12uF and 8uF Solens plus a 2uF Sonicap, all wired in parallel. I prefer this to traditional "bypassing" where you might combine a 22uF Solen with a 0.1uF

premium cap. I can't hear the difference with this kind of bypassing, but I can hear the difference with cascaded caps. You will want to use a single premium quality cap to replace any cap whose value is less than 1uF, like the 0.47uF tweeter L Pad bypass cap.

Subject: Re: 4 Pi Tweaks?
Posted by Matts on Sat, 07 Apr 2007 18:09:22 GMT
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I did that, too, early on and it was a good 'un.
