Subject: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by colinhester on Mon, 21 Sep 2009 20:25:11 GMT
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Poking around on DIY Audio Projects (http://www.diyaudioprojects.com/) and found this little kit http://www.diyaudioprojects.com/Tubes/6418-Tube-Preamp-Headphone-Kit/ Any thoughts? Looks like it might be a fun weekend project and not too 'pensive.....C

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by Shane on Tue, 22 Sep 2009 02:59:44 GMT
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That's a pretty cool little kit. There was all sorts of talk about pencil tubes last year? on Head-Fi/Headwize and people were p2p'ing them, but this is the first PCB I've seen. Neat little tube equivalent of the CMOY.

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by SteveBrown on Tue, 22 Sep 2009 18:39:05 GMT
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It uses op amps! Oh no! That's not a tube preamp!

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by Shane on Tue, 22 Sep 2009 19:27:05 GMT
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SteveBrown wrote on Tue, 22 September 2009 13:39It uses op amps! Oh no! That's not a tube preamp!

op-amps are the devil's work Nothing kills the sound faster

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by Wayne-o on Tue, 22 Sep 2009 22:39:40 GMT
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some op amps are bad from the word go. the plus and minus power supply must be the exact voltage to work correctly. Bob Carver has info on this, he and others were duped into using op amps that were defective. A lot of kenwoods, sansuis used these op amps , They sounded distorted, this could not be fixed without redesigning the preamp circuit. this is where the bad rapport came from. Op amps are supposed to sound good if done right.

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 23 Sep 2009 00:10:19 GMT
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Burr Brown's are really nice. A bit pricey though.

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by Shane on Wed, 23 Sep 2009 02:19:33 GMT
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Wayne Parham wrote on Tue, 22 September 2009 19:10
Burr Brown's are really nice. A bit pricey though.

Yah.. That's all I've used in my builds. They have a distinct sound as compared with a couple of the other's I've tried. A little smoother, "darker" sounding for the most part. Others have had a more edgy high end and more pronounced grainyness.

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by SteveBrown on Thu, 24 Sep 2009 15:44:37 GMT
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Yep, I was only half kidding. I recently did some tests w/op amp as a preamp. Some turned out pretty good, but what I did was build a PS with Black Gate electrolytics, and film bypass, in the pre I used paper/oil output caps, and a TKD volume pot and tantalum resistor for feedback. So yes, if you surround it with premium parts and you use newer generation op amps (no 741's please!), I think you can do well. Switching back to all tube, however, soundstage improved, tone improved, etc. Not a night/day difference, but if I had the option (which I do), I would not use the op amp route. Speaking of which, I need to draw up a picture of my latest line stage. It sounds amazing (IMHO). Very simple, uses one Russian 6N6P, and a shunt reg PS.

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 24 Sep 2009 23:38:25 GMT
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Very cool, can't wait to hear more about your 6N6 preamp!

Subject: Re: Thoughts on this kit
Posted by colinhester on Fri, 25 Sep 2009 02:15:41 GMT
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SteveBrown wrote on Thu, 24 September 2009 10:44.....I need to draw up a picture of my latest line stage. It sounds amazing (IMHO). Very simple, uses one Russian 6N6P, and a shunt reg PS.

I assume you are doing this as I type. Get 'er drawn, Steve.