Subject: tube preamp recommendations
Posted by IAIN on Sat, 24 Apr 2004 18:29:29 GMT
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I am putting together my first hifi system. I started out with a budget but that got blown to hell quickly. I am stuck on trying to find a preamp diy or otherwise that is quality without breaking the bank $1000 or under. I wish I could listen to several before I purchase one but alas there are no audio stores around here that have tube preamps I could demo.I have the following components so far....CanaryAudio CA-300 8wpc Monoblocks http://www.canaryaudio.com/300.htmKlipsch Belle'sCustom made isobaric subwoofer disgned by someone who worked for cary which will

picking up a thorensWhat preamp would compliment the components I have so far?Any advice much
appreciated.Thanks,IAINhttp://cgim.audiogon.com/i/vs/i/f/1076617810.jpghttp://cgim.audiogon.com/i/vs/i/f/1076618182.jpghttp://cgim.audiogon.com/i/vs/i/f/1076618407.jpg

Subject: Re: tube preamp recommendations
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 24 Apr 2004 20:00:25 GMT
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Seems like one of Canary Audio's preamps would be a good match for your system, since you already have a Canary Audio amp. But there are so many good products out there, you really have a lot of options.I'm using a Bottlehead Foreplay preamp, and it is a pretty good amplifier. It's avaialble inexpensively as a DIY product, so you can build it yourself. They look pretty basic in stock trim, but some folks go all out on having a chassis made that makes their DIY efforts look world class. That's a pretty good way to go.

Subject: Re: tube preamp recommendations
Posted by IAIN on Sun, 25 Apr 2004 18:36:46 GMT
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I thought the same thing about the canary's but the individual I purchased them from had tried two canary pre's and didn't think much of them. Of course what sounds good to one doesn't necessarily sound good to another. I have thought about the bottlehead with the upgrade options especially for the price. I have no electronics background at all and the thought of getting zappped does not appeal to me. Have you tried the phono pre from bottlehead?

Subject: Re: tube preamp recommendations
Posted by GarMan on Sun, 25 Apr 2004 19:55:36 GMT
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Iain,Check out Hagerman Tech and also its discussion forum at audiocircle. Jim has a very loyal following. You can get a finished Clarinet unit, or the half-kit is at very attractively priced option.Gar.
Hagerman Technology

Subject: Re: tube preamp recommendations
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 25 Apr 2004 20:32:44 GMT
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Those Canary preamps sure look nice. I'd like to hear one to find out for myself.About the Bottlehead gear, I have a brand-new, still-in-the-box Seduction phono stage kit with the C4S constant current source. I probably won't have time to assemble it until the end of the summer though. Too many other things on my plate right now.

Subject: Re: tube preamp recommendations
Posted by elektratig on Tue, 27 Apr 2004 21:25:12 GMT
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IAIN,If you don't feel comfortable with DIY you should of course consider other alternatives, but if you do feel comfortable I second the Foreplay recommendation. I have two, with various upgrades, one from the kit, the second I did myself.
Tempest and Pi Construction Pix

Subject: Re: tube preamp recommendations
Posted by IAIN on Wed, 28 Apr 2004 12:51:42 GMT
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From what I've read the bottlehead is easy to assemble but I would just have to do research before I dove into it to keep myself from getting zapped. The bottlehead is so affordable I could get one of those to start with and then try other preamps later. I have also been looking at the Zen ZSLA-1 http://www.decware.com/linestage/zp1.htm which seems to be a very simple design and also affordable.