Subject: 3 Pi plans request
Posted by spkrman57 on Mon, 21 Jun 2010 14:28:52 GMT
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Wayne,

Please send me the plans for the Lambda td12 and B & C DE-250 please.

I have a curiousity and may try out the Lambda drivers as a few friends of mine tried out the 15" versions (td15x I think - rubber surround), and I thought they sounded decent.

Have you thought of 4 Pi plans for Lamda 15" drivers yet?

Regards, Ron

Subject: Re: 3 Pi plans request
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 21 Jun 2010 15:06:41 GMT
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You've got mail!

I am extremely happy with the performance of both models, especially when fully upgraded with all the best driver options. The way I see it, the choice for the prospective owner becomes whether they want the best "corporate" speaker or the best "craftsman" speaker. JBL has all the resources for R&D and brings all that to bear when developing drivers. AE has very dedicated craftsmen who have done a great job too, making hand crafted drivers that also have all the right technologies. In my mind, there is no winner, both are excellent. It's like making a choice between the best that Porsche can do or the best that Ferrari can do. Both are excellent.

Subject: Re: 3 Pi plans request
Posted by Bill Epstein on Thu, 24 Jun 2010 10:04:23 GMT
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Hmmmm.....

Quote:the choice for the prospective owner becomes whether they want the best "corporate"

speaker or the best "craftsman" speaker.

Not sure I follow either that or the Porsche/Ferrari analogy and kinda surprised you didn't show differing specs or test results, as you usually do.

How do the drivers sound different, apart from efficiency?

Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 24 Jun 2010 15:05:09 GMT
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summer to drag one outdoor to measure. I'm a little slower doing that these days with the little 3-year-old Eddie running around. I did, however, make a video of the process I use to measure

thought it would be interesting to DIYers building similar matched-directivity loudspeakers, so I posted it online:

response chart is clearly visible on the computer screen in the foreground of the video. This was done indoors, so room modes are clearly evident below 200Hz, but you can still easily see the overall response curve. It would just be smoother down low in an anechoic environment, a smooth gradual rolloff like T/S sims show. I wasn't really worried about room modes in this test, because it was a study of behavior in the crossover region. Again, I'll take these speakers

Please forgive the car analogies, my mother's side of the family owned several Chrysler dealerships and has for three generations. Had Packards and Studebakers when those companies were still around too. My Dad opened the first large Porsche dealership in Tulsa in the early seventies, so I grew up around them, drove in the very first 930 Turbo that was delivered in 1976. I was always at the race track with Peter Gregg in the late 1970's, as his Brumos legacy made history on the track. He and my father were friends. So cars are in my blood.

The reason I drew the analogy to the Porsche and Ferrari is, like both of those car companies, JBL and AE are both known for making excellent products. Also, like those car companies, one is known for its reputation for building its products with hand-fitted parts using fine craftsmen, the other more for its precise mechanical approach. I think most would agree that both car companies make fine products, just different approaches, each having its own unique traits. But in spite of their differences, both perform well and are a joy to drive. Likewise, I find that both loudspeakers are excellent, both sound great, both are a joy to own and neither has anything about them that makes me want to look for something more. I could live with a pair of either model of speakers, and used with some good subs, I think I would be happy with my sound system for the rest of my life.

When I brought in the AE woofers for evaluation, my thinking was I'd measure them and if they were good enough to use as upgrade parts, I'd add them as an option but if not, I'd silently shelve them and just not mention it. The JBL woofers have been my favorites for a long time, sort of setting the standard for me for top-of-the-line midwoofers. If the AE's fell too far below the JBL's in performance, as I said, I'd shelve them. Or if they left the JBL's in the dust, I'd probably look at replacing all JBL woofers (i.e. 2226) with an AE part for an upgrade path.

The things to watch for are harmonic distortion, primarily at the low end but also through the passband and breakup in the top end of the scale. Harmonic distortion will tell you how well flux modulation is controlled, how good the Faraday rings are. That's not a trivial thing, because you have to balance getting enough conductive material in the motor, in the right place, to counter flux modulation without putting in too much and making the motor weak. Cone breakup characteristics are determined by cone shape and composition, including the dustcap. Finding the right shape and cone material is probably difficult enough, and then doing it reliably and consistently is another thing as well. In both of these areas, harmonic distortion and upper end smoothness, the AE woofers did very well, and were consistent between two samples.

Is the AE woofer better than the JBL? It is an excellent woofer, made by passionate people. It is impressive, and it's cool looking too. Does it embarrass the JBL? Is it a hand-down better woofer? No. The JBL parts are very good too. Which speakers do I personally like better, my

930 or a 308 today?...

Posted by spkrman57 on Thu, 24 Jun 2010 16:55:45 GMT
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I think you did a very good job of comparing things Wayne!

I would have to say after much reading and hearing JBL 2226's and hearing a TD15X at Detroit AKfest (Cosmos speakers) that with the decline of availability of JBL drivers (no longer manufactured in the US as of Apr 2010), the Lambda's will probably be the easiest to obtain in the near future.

I thought the TD15X sounded a lot like a 2226. It takes a larger cabinet, but the sound was very similiar to my ears.

The TD15M is more efficient, but is closer to a Altec 416 driver and I'm not a fan of floppy surrounds on my drivers.

Ron

Subject: Re: 3 Pi plans request
Posted by SteveBrown on Fri, 25 Jun 2010 01:46:37 GMT
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You going to use an active crossover???

Subject: Re: 3 Pi plans request
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 25 Jun 2010 12:36:04 GMT
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You're asking Ron, right? All my speakers have passive crossover boards.

Subject: Electronic crossover
Posted by spkrman57 on Fri, 25 Jun 2010 15:26:44 GMT
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SteveBrown wrote on Thu, 24 June 2010 20:46You going to use an active crossover???

Steve,

I plan on using the electronic crossover for a horn loaded 2-way in the future. I still have issues like getting a affordable preamp and finding a room to put them in.

Right now I have 2 systems in the living room that I'm working on at the moment. So the bi-amped system will most likely be upstairs with the corner horns (Jensen backloaded design).

Regards, Ron

PS: Tubino in Toldeo wants to borrow my crossover in the meantime for his 2-way system using TAD drivers.