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Subject: More Fun with Capacitors

Posted by [GarlandB](#) on Tue, 02 Nov 2010 00:41:43 GMT

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I've been really enjoying my year old Pi 4s with JBL and B&C drivers. They are a distinct step up from my old Theater 4s, ( although I do sometimes miss the softer romanticism of the larger eminence driven Theater 4 Pis). Keeping with my nearly constant desire to experiment with my DIY gear I recently replaced the polypropylene capacitors in the hi-pass section of the 4 Pis' crossover with a combination of NOS Russian military caps purchased on E-bay. The .47uF by-pass is now FT-3 teflons and the 6.8uF series is a combination of paper in oil KBG (6uF) and FT-3 teflons. The results are worth posting since the improvement in clarity and refinement is significant. The improvement is as great as that going from the Eminence drivers to the JBL and B&C gear. The caps cost about \$50, much of which is shipping from Lithuania. The usual descriptions of quality apply, ie. individual violins instead of a mass, individual voices in a chorale, etc. And the soundstage is holographic and easy to listen to. For some reason, even the bass seems more coherent. The speakers, dare I say, dissappear! In my small listening room that is really saying something! Live performances are to die for- so much hall ambience and live sound "pressure" if you know what I mean.

If you want to goose your Pis up a notch for not much mula try these russian caps readily available on the 'Bay.

Thanks as always to Wayne for making these great speaker designs available both as a commercial product but also as a most generous offering to the DIY community!

Regards,  
Garland

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Subject: Re: More Fun with Capacitors

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 02 Nov 2010 02:49:07 GMT

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Thanks for posting that tip, Garland. I may have to give the oil caps another try. I've used paper-in-oil caps (ultra expensive) and motor runs (much more reasonable). The paper-in-oil caps sounded the same as the polys to my ears but the motor runs had a unique sound.

One thing about DIY, it allows experimentation. You get to make 'em your own, put your mark on them. That's part of the fun!

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Subject: Re: More Fun with Capacitors

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Tue, 02 Nov 2010 10:39:04 GMT

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Since I got a Mt. Bike, and now, shudder, a TV, I don't do tweaking anymore. However, having some Russian Teflons and PIOs in my Aikido pre-amp, I know what Mr. Garland is talking about.

My 4Pi crossovers have Obbligato poly as well as oil and Aerovox motor runs for the big cap. I tried other motor runs like GEs and some no-names but Aerovox (they have to be oval and are getting rare) have a unique quality of added detail without being strident.

I haven't been inside the 4Pis since I fixed a loose connection last spring but when the weather gets too bad for riding I may try some of those Rooskie caps; I have some waiting in a box somewhere.

Good to hear from you, Garland. Hi, Wayne. Bye, Steve.

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**Subject: Re: More Fun with Capacitors**

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 02 Nov 2010 15:33:36 GMT

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Yeah, I heard through the grapevine that Steve Brown accepted a position in Portland. I am happy for him but sad for all of us in Tulsa.

What's even more of a bummer is we really never got a chance to get things together while he was here. After little Eddie was born, I have had very little free time. Seems like the rest of Tulsa has been kind of sleepy too, because we haven't had many audio get-togethers at all. So we just didn't get the chance I would have liked.

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**Subject: Re: More Fun with Capacitors**

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Tue, 02 Nov 2010 16:13:04 GMT

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Eddie is, what, 4? How about a pic?

Here's Jessica a few weeks ago; she's training for a visit to Tulsa

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**Subject: Re: More Fun with Our Kids**

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 00:02:04 GMT

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Jessica is adorable, Bill! I know you're super proud.

--- Sorry to digress from your capacitor thread, Garland. Bill and I are having a Proud Papa moment ---

Here's little Eddie, last Christmas:

And here is is with me, a month ago at the State fair:

In a fit of sentimentalism, I talked my older son Michael into getting into one of Eddie's little kiddie seats:

He was a good sport, but I don't think that seat was really working for him. They're 20 years apart. Eddie is 4, Michael is 24.

People that bought kits between around 2000 and 2006 or so may have gotten crossovers assembled by Michael. He did a great job at it, but has since moved on to a real job.

Trying to get lil' Eddie trained on the soldering iron...

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### File Attachments

- 1) [Eddie.jpg](#), downloaded 2278 times
  - 2) [Eddie\\_and\\_Me.jpg](#), downloaded 2363 times
  - 3) [Michael.jpg](#), downloaded 2369 times
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Subject: Re: More Fun with Our Kids

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 03:22:28 GMT

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Wonderful! He looks like he was born to those sunglasses and will look as good as his dad at the wheel of the 4-4-2!

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Subject: Re: More Fun with Capacitors  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Fri, 19 Nov 2010 02:38:19 GMT  
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Just in case someone missed my reference to the 4-4-2...that's Wayne, not Eddie

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### File Attachments

1) [Wayne\\_and\\_Cutlass.jpg](#), downloaded 2052 times

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