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Subject: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 27 Nov 2004 18:01:45 GMT

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Finally got around to installing the Anticipation upgrade in the Foreplay. I am running that into the Brian GT clone then to the Pi 4's. Using my Rotel 991 I am getting damned good sound. For some reason the Foreplay works real well with the GC, it provides a much more powerful presentation with deep and quick bass and nice 3d mids, I have been listening to this set-up now for 2 weeks. Tried it with my son's portable and I think you would be hard pressed to improve on that for the money.

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 27 Nov 2004 18:14:41 GMT

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Thanks for your impressions. Sounds like a tubed CD player, in that you are incorporating a tube into the system. Maybe people with solid state gear could use a tube in-line through the preamp input/output of their existing hifi systems. What do you think?

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 15:29:55 GMT

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Good question Wayne. I know there is some debate as to whether using tube driven pre-amp/SS amp is of any value in terms of sound quality. I actually just stumbled on this combo. I had the Anticipation upgrade lying around for more than a year and was not using the Foreplay. Just for kicks I put it together and tried it with the GC and found the sound to be real lively and defined. It's funny because I decided to put the Carver TFM 60/ foreplay in just to see if it too would sound good and to be frank it was dull and boring. So I thought hey; this is one cheapie combo that really sounds good this way, but I can't speak for any other systems. To be truthfull I have never been a fan of mix and match. Mostly I found you get the worst of both worlds, a sort of glaze over the sound that flatters niether the tube pre or the SS amp. I am not sure what the output impedance is on the Foreplay maybe that has an impact. I suggest anyone with an FP try it on the GC. It reminds me of the sound we got with the Stoetkit. Some of the best of Tube and SS. How's that amp working for you?

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

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Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 18:37:25 GMT

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I have a Foreplay with all the upgrades, mods and stepped attenuators. I also have a ton of chip amps in my parts bin so I'll have to see if I have a 3875 and connect it to the Foreplay. Isn't a 3875 the chip used in the Gainclone? That and a high current 12 volt supply (like a car battery charger) would be real easy to put together. Sure sounds worth doing! About the Stoetkit, I haven't received the one I purchased yet. The demo model was excellent, so I'm excited to get my kit. I imagine it will be around the first of the year, since I think it is coming from Heart in the Netherlands. When it arrives, I'll post a write-up and some photos of the assembly process.

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 19:46:37 GMT

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You know Wayne I took the stepped attenuators out of my Foreplay; it was hard to get a good balance of output. The Gainclone can use either the 3785 or the 1875 chips. I used a toroidal transformer and hexfred rectifier diodes with Black Gate Electrolytics as a power supply. It can sound a little harsh on the real high freq. if you push it. With the Pi Theater 4's It never runs out of steam and very surprising how musical this thing sounds. If I ever get delivery of all the parts for the Death of Zen pre-amp I will report on that combination. What a pain gathering parts; something to be said for kits!

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 19:53:23 GMT

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I think the best thing about kits is the single source and the fact that the kit assembler can use an economy of scale to reduce prices. OK, that was two best things.

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [GarMan](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 18:32:38 GMT

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JR, Sounds like you're running something similar to Joe's JLTi tube-buffered gainclone. I found my gainclone works very well with my tube preamp too, although the bass is lacking at the very bottom end. Here's a thought: a 4 channel gainclone for biamping purposes. Build the two HF

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channels a usual, but give the two LF channels about 20,000 uF of reservoir capacitance per channel. From what I've read, increasing power supply reservoir increases bass quality, but mids and HF suffers.Gar.

JLTi Tube Buffered Gainclone

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 18:37:55 GMT

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Hi Gar,You betcha on the parallel capacitance in the power supply. Large caps like that act like batteries, and allow high current surges in excess of what the supply can provide on a constant basis. This is one place where the adage "bigger is better" definitely applies.Wayne

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [GarMan](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 20:27:27 GMT

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It's kind of fun to cut the A/C on my preamp and still have FULL volume for 30 seconds, and listen for another 10 seconds as the sound fades.I agree, bigger is better for almost all amps. For some reason, it's not the case for the gainclone, I haven't found an explanation as to why the gainclone suffers in the mids and hi's with anything more than 1500 uF per rail, but it seems to be the word on the net.Gar.

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Subject: Re: Foreplay/Gainclone

Posted by [Skip Pack](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 20:33:21 GMT

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I've been using a fairly stock Foreplay into an 1875 inverted gainclone.It works great, but I'd be a little leary of an inpedance mismatch driving two gainclone inputs for bi-amping. If I remember correctly,the Foreplay has an output impedance of 1.3K which suggests that youwould want 25-30K per gainclone input. Since Foreplays have a ton ofgain, a dropping tranformer might work beautifully.Skip

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