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Subject: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Mon, 14 Mar 2011 03:24:19 GMT  
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Pretty soon I'll be blasting HUGE wattage thru them. No more 2 watt 45s or 6 watt 6CA7s, no sir. I just orderd this powerhouse T Amp with an astounding 12 Watts into 8 Ohms!

I ordered this partucular one because the vendor was the only one with 8 Ohm numbers and he included the following totally accurate description:

"The Topping T-Amp is a so-called Class T integrated amplifier, based on the TA 2020 chipset. the chip makes use of a kind of "Digital Power Processing", this is, more or less, a Class D amplifier with high rate switching properties. That is why they put the word "digital" into it. Actually, there's nothing really digital inside, not in terms of D/A conversion. You can view the official TA2020 datasheet, with detailed tech specs, The Topping T-Amp is nothing else than a pure and simple application suggested by the chipset datasheet. No magic"

I also like the parts selection

Having it also means my grand daughter can safely be around the stereo or TV which is really reason number one!

Should be interesting...

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [steve f](#) on Mon, 14 Mar 2011 16:59:00 GMT  
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Bill,

You sir, are a steely eyed audio man!!! I keep a T-amp (different brand) in my second system that stays on all of the time. My wife uses it in her office. As a group, they ain't bad if you don't push them too hard.

Steve

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [rohitdev](#) on Mon, 14 Mar 2011 17:12:09 GMT  
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Bill,

I have been following your 4 pi build info in this forum. Let us know how the T amp sounds. Also do you still have the rope caulk on the H290 horns? I built my 4 pis recently but havent done any damping to the H290 as yet. To me it sounds fine without them, them just curious to see if it'll provide an improvement.

Regards,  
Rohit

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Tue, 15 Mar 2011 02:51:40 GMT  
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What? You didn't caulk the horns

Just so you know my DE-250s were over a year old with at least 1000 hours on them before I mounted them to the H-290s. Prior to the 290s, they played through woodhorns which have a seductively musical but less focused sound than the Eminence.

I immediately loved the H-290s except for a noticeably "plastic" coloration. Maybe not plastic but certainly there was an artificial ringing that came with the extra focus that bothered me. The rope caulk eliminated it and took the 4Pis to a new level.

Those who know me are aware I'm not much for tweaks but I am death on vibration control. My crossover is mounted on 1/2" of EAR Isodamp (the blue stuff in the pic) glued to the cabinet bottom with EAR Microsorb (which is why there is wax paper under the board in the pic). The rope caulk is in the same cause and it, like the EAR products, works.

#### File Attachments

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- 1) [IMG\\_0683\\_1.JPG](#), downloaded 4236 times
  - 2) [IMG\\_0298\\_1.JPG](#), downloaded 4131 times
  - 3) [IMG\\_1396 crossover.jpg](#), downloaded 4335 times
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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [rohitdev](#) on Tue, 15 Mar 2011 19:04:02 GMT  
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Thanks for posting the pics Bill. The rope-caulking seems easy enough to do. Will try it out soon. Where did you buy the EAR isodamp blue sheet?

Also did you get a chance to try to class t amp on the 4 pis?

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Tue, 15 Mar 2011 23:22:25 GMT  
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Michael Percy has EAR products. The T Amp won't be here for a few weeks.

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [justphil](#) on Wed, 16 Mar 2011 01:28:07 GMT  
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What is the rope caulks purpose? To dampen the plastic and stop it from resonating? I know nothing about all this and I'm curious.

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Wed, 16 Mar 2011 01:48:28 GMT  
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justphil wrote on Tue, 15 March 2011 21:28 What is the rope caulks purpose? To dampen the plastic and stop it from resonating? I know nothing about all this and I'm curious.

I don't know what it does. All I know is, in the first few seconds they played when newly built, one of my first thoughts was 'plasticky treble' and would I regret leaving behind the woodhorns.

I once put the caulk on (so-called Cowbell) Altec 811s which had little, if any, effect. But I figured, "what the hell" maybe THEY had the right solution but the wrong horn.

Caulked'm. Right away, plastic sound gone!

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [GarlandB](#) on Wed, 16 Mar 2011 17:52:22 GMT  
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Hi Bill,

It's been a while, good to see you still playin' with the 4Pis. I've recently moved on from my Theater 4s (too big) to a pair of 4 pis like yours and am enjoying them a lot. Use the Paramour 2A3's, Adcom 200w beast, and for the past year or so a couple of T amps. The 47hz Amp 6 is the same chip as the amp your getting so I think you will be in for a treat. I've also used the Sure 2x "100W" amp board sold by Parts Express and like it too, especially with the extra boost it gives rock and large scale orchestral music. The combination of power with refinement can't be beat

anywhere near the price of these T amps. Dynamic, sweet, huge soundstage, quiet, transparent....all the code words for superior music reproduction. They only fall down a bit on the vague notion of emotion and "musicality", but only a bit. Still very enjoyable.

Resp.

Garland

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [Doc Jr 8156](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2011 20:37:36 GMT  
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Hello,  
I been using class D Audio's 120 watt amp and the bass response is amazing. I also noticed that my Class D amp have better and more revealing highs than my tube amps. Godspeed.

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [rohitdev](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2011 20:48:27 GMT  
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Hello Doc: Are you referring to <http://classdaudio.com> ?

If so how much did the kit cost you and what tube amp are you comparing to?

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [Doc Jr 8156](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2011 22:42:46 GMT  
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Hi Rohit,  
Yes, that's it. Class d audio. I only have the 120 watter. I paid around \$140 if I am remembering it correctly.

I have to qualify my statement about my comparison with my class d amp and my tube amps. Presently I have 6 tube amps. One ST 70 with the Welborne mods, 3 pentode/single ended amps using Tubelab's boards, and 2 300B amps. I should have said that in some materials the highs of the digital amp sounded better than my tube amps. Godspeed.

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Subject: Re: Gonna energize my 4Pis  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2011 23:08:40 GMT  
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A couple of years ago I tried a Classe' CA-70 and it just never sounded right in the mids and highs; kinda, I dunno,,,transistory. These days I mostly use my Tubelab Simple SE with EH 6CA7s. {It's important to support George so he can finally buy a shirt!} The SSE isn't quite as refined as the 45 amp I built with Steve Brown but it does a better job of driving the Pis and sounds great w/o being too toobey.

I need to look at that class T or D amp you built. 120 lovely watts would be ...lovely.

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