Subject: What a difference a capacitor change can make!
Posted by hurdy_gurdyman on Sat, 05 Mar 2005 18:03:50 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I just changed capacitors in my vintage H.H.Scott LK-48-B integrated amp. I replaced the old Ceracap coupling caps with just plain ole Orange Drops. Total cost for parts was about $20. The difference was almost shocking. I've complained about a "hashy" sound and had blamed the horns in my Klipsch Heresys for some time now. However, after changing the caps in the amp, I no longer hear any of the hashy sound. I'd have never suspected that changing out the old ceramic caps to an inexpensive cap like Orange Drops would make such a difference. A couple of months back I'd bypassed the tone control circuit, which made a noticable difference, but nothing like the cap change brought on. It now sounds like I upgraded a couple of levels with a new amp. I'm going to be busy listening a lot for a few days now...Dave

Subject: Re: What a difference a capacitor change can make!
Posted by Steve on Mon, 07 Mar 2005 04:39:14 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi Hurdy, You are right on Hurdy. Different capacitors really do sound different. Glad to hear about your tweeks. Keep up the good work.Resistors also change the sound, but I am not sure if the sound changes as much as with capacitors.Take care.Steve

Subject: Re: What a difference a capacitor change can make!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 07 Mar 2005 05:26:03 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Ever notice Steve Bench's observations about capacitors?
The Sound of Capacitors

Subject: Re: What a difference a capacitor change can make!
Posted by Steve on Mon, 07 Mar 2005 13:15:03 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Yes, I have read the article. The findings could depend on the terminations and materials (wire etc.) used. He doesn't mention the brands tested. Different brands sound different.He also used just one frequency for testing. In general, I am not particularly impressed with the article.I think one should do listening tests to determine which type sounds closest to a straight wire.Take

care.Steve

Subject: Re: What a difference a capacitor change can make!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 07 Mar 2005 20:17:59 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

At least it quantifies the effects and illustrates them with actual measured data.

Subject: Re: What a difference a capacitor change can make!
Posted by Steve on Tue, 08 Mar 2005 21:24:27 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Dear Wayne, Yes it does, which is rare. Another article worth reading is "picking capacitors" by Walter Jung. Pretty interesting, but doesn't cover oil caps. I have another article, somewhere around in print form, about dielectric materials, a chemist's viewpoint, but doesn't do any actual measurements. Might be able to find it on the net.Take care and great week.Steve

---

Subject: no Kidding!
Posted by PakProtector on Tue, 08 Mar 2005 21:59:25 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

not that I am sure the correct quantities can be measured to predict the "sound" of an item...Since amps which measure in a way which can only be described using the word, "crappy" seem to be both highly regarded and pleasing to the ear, I assume that the wrong stuff is being measured.More testing, and some large group linstening panel might be able to gather some of the measured quantities with the sonic impressions. That would be nice to have.regards,Douglas

---

Subject: Re: no Kidding!
Posted by DRCope on Thu, 10 Mar 2005 15:55:10 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Absolutely.Trouble with the listening panel is, the cap will always be evaluated in a circuit in concert with a bunch of other parts, which in turn is in a system with a bunch of other components, which in turn is in a room . . . . .I'd still like to see it happen, but you have to keep the context in

mind. We can't expect to draw universally applicable conclusions from the lab coat boys or the subjective descriptions of the pipe-smoking auditioners . . . (I always loved the artwork at the top of Herb Reichert's Sound Practices column.)I guess the message is: context and perspective are key. But you knew that already . . . .

Subject: Re: What a difference a capacitor change can make!
Posted by hurdy_gurdyman on Thu, 10 Mar 2005 23:42:46 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Here's the link.http://www.capacitors.com/picking_capacitors/pickcap.htmDave capacitors

---

Subject: Re: What a difference a capacitor change can make!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 11 Mar 2005 02:30:29 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Great link, thanks!

Subject: Re: no Kidding!
Posted by Steve on Fri, 11 Mar 2005 03:53:08 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Probably the best way is to use an A/B test vs a straightwire to find the most accurate capacitor.Take care.Steve

---

Subject: Re: no Kidding!
Posted by PakProtector on Fri, 11 Mar 2005 19:21:39 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

In the same circuit, how would you account for DC offset usually applied to a cap? If memory serves, this effect had a significant effect on the results.regrds,Douglas

---

Subject: Re: no Kidding!
Posted by Steve on Fri, 11 Mar 2005 20:49:17 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

If you remember that DC offset changes the sound of a cap, why are you aking me how to apply a DC offset voltage? Steve