
Subject: Excited =)

Posted by [justphil](#) on Sun, 19 Jun 2011 16:45:01 GMT

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Well got a few bucks and am able to order another 2pi and a 1pi kit. This will finish my L/C/R. I can't wait =)

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [NWCgrad](#) on Mon, 20 Jun 2011 22:59:00 GMT

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Will the L/C/R setup be 2 2 Pi's and 1 1 Pi? They should offer a very coherent soundfield, best of luck on the build.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [justphil](#) on Mon, 20 Jun 2011 23:23:15 GMT

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Yes the L/R will be the 2pi studios on stands and the 1pi will be center. Then when I get some more cash 2 more 1pis for surrounds. It is a Home Theatre set up.
Thanks for the well wishes =)

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [Dave_S](#) on Tue, 21 Jun 2011 06:29:50 GMT

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Having speakers with the same sound quality should be nice.

I may have issue with my current center channel speaker. More testing is needed to see if I just need to turn it off or turn it down. The center channel opening is not big enough for any Pi speaker offering.

BTW, I just registered for Zune Pass and downloaded the software. It should be pretty neat. It beats listening to 10 seconds on Amazon to determine if a song is any good.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [justphil](#) on Mon, 27 Jun 2011 00:09:41 GMT

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Made allot of progress this weekend. The boxes are assembled and insulated. The baffles are routed except for the offset on the woofers. I am waiting to get the woofers before I route it.

Speakers should be here Weds and should be listening to the pre finish speakers this weekend.
Now I am REALLY EXCITED =P

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [NWCgrad](#) on Tue, 28 Jun 2011 22:59:54 GMT
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Tomorrow (Weds) probably seems like it will never get here!

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2011 12:59:13 GMT
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Yes, but look it IS Weds now =)

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [NWCgrad](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2011 21:27:24 GMT
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Did the parts arrive?

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Thu, 30 Jun 2011 03:10:24 GMT
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Yep finished routing my baffles and fine sanded the ports for a nice tight fit. Tommorow or Fri I will drill press for the "T nuts" and glue on the baffles. Will hopefully have them sanded to a ready to paint by Sat night or Sunday.

I also cut the PVC and have 2 base parts for my speaker stands cut. Will hopefully have them together and ready to paint by Sun also.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Tue, 05 Jul 2011 16:28:11 GMT
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Thought I would put up a cpl pics of my speakers. All thats left is final sand and finishing. I am REALLY afraid of painting as I am not that good and would hate to make them look funky at this point. They really sound great and have made my HT come alive.

I will fill the pvc with sand to add additional weight to the stand. Then I will have to find some spikes or something I suppose. The finished height with speaker is 41" this seemed just about right for the listening area.

The placement in my room. Can you make any suggestions as to a possible better placement? Should I raise the center some? I have it angled slightly. Gotta love that plasma TV glare =P

I put a sleight round over to all the front edges which really made it nice IMO. I wish it showed better in the pic.

My wife really likes them. She says they are cute and look like little robots LOL. She says she notices a big difference.

Will post finished product when I get around to doing it. I am going to try to put allot of thought into how I want to fianlly do it.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 05 Jul 2011 19:18:31 GMT

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Looks great! I like how you have them positioned.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [justphil](#) on Tue, 05 Jul 2011 21:55:32 GMT

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Thanks Wayne.

Am I supposed to use some sort of a gasket for my final mounting of the speakers? I really appreciate your work and commuinty support of these wonderful speakers.

Phil

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 05 Jul 2011 23:42:37 GMT

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The woofer has a built-in gasket, so you won't need another on most surfaces. The tweeter doesn't have a gasket, but does prove to be airtight on smooth surfaces. You can cut a thin gasket from cardboard or PVC if you want, but in most cases, it's not necessary.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [Dave_S](#) on Wed, 06 Jul 2011 04:37:20 GMT
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You made really quick progress on those. They look good.

As far as the gaskets, what Wayne said should work. I took Wayne's advice from a previous post about using a shower liner gasket from Home Depot. That seems to work well also.

I know that you said that you said that you are considering options for finishing. From what I have seen of your design, I would recommend a 2 ply veneer if you decide to finish them with a wood veneer. I (stupidly) decided to use strips of wood veneer and splice them together myself. I did that a long time ago when stock veneer was thicker and it worked well. To replace what I screwed up, I bought a 2 ply veneer. It was very stable and not prone to wrinkling or bubbles. I wish the entire covering of my speakers were covered with 2 ply veneer. I put the final sheet of my spliced veneer on this weekend. There is no photographic evidence of the botched attempt.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Wed, 06 Jul 2011 06:29:04 GMT
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Thank you for the compliment. Can you possibly link me the material you are talking about. I have never veneered anything before. Is it hard to do?

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Wed, 06 Jul 2011 11:25:18 GMT
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The site I referenced below is a great place to start. If it isn't mentioned, Tape-ease.com is a good source for veneer (I like NBL, No Black Line)

<http://audioroundtable.com/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=16118>

With that double baffle, you have plenty of material to round-over and wrap-around the NBL veneer seamlessly. Just don't make the mistake I did and place your dowels longitudinally

<http://audioroundtable.com/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=16209>

That's wax paper over the dowels; kind of a belt and suspenders way to keep out of contact adhesive hell but turned out to be unnecessary.

I use dowels because they come off the adhesive easily w/o taking a lot of it with. Once I got the technique down, I decided that next time, I'll round-over the rear corners as well and wrap the

veneer all the way around to the back.

The far smaller and lighter 2Pis should be really easy.

File Attachments

- 1) [Ready To Roll_1.JPG](#), downloaded 5846 times
 - 2) [IMG_2107_1.JPG](#), downloaded 403 times
-

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [justphil](#) on Wed, 06 Jul 2011 13:30:44 GMT

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Double baffle? Do you mean since I placed the whole baffle face over the sides instead of between them? Thanks for the links. Will look into them.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [Dave_S](#) on Thu, 07 Jul 2011 00:44:09 GMT

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I thought the front baffle was double also. With "IMG_2288.jpg", there are two distinct shades on the edge of the front baffle that makes it look like two sheets are sandwiched. However, when I compare the thickness of the sides, the total thickness looks similar.

The link that Bill provided looks like decent veneer and is probably cheaper. I bought mine locally at Rockler Woodworking. The 2-ply has one side with grain running one way and the other side has grain running perpendicular. It helps to stiffen the sheet. That link for what I used is here:

<http://www.rockler.com/product.cfm?page=2217&filter=veneer>

The main thing that I liked about the veneer was that it seemed to lay flat. If the veneer is not stiff enough, the chances of the veneer not lying flat increases. I had seen other veneers that looked so thin that they would not lay flat. Because of the original veneer that I chose, I made a veneer press and used regular glue. In the end I liked it, but it was a lot of work and expense. I will do future projects with the press, but I don't think that I would steer others in that direction. You may want to get a recommendation from somebody else about a brand of contact cement. What I chose was nothing like what I had used in the past despite my best attempt to buy a quality product. That was one part of my problem and why I went to using regular glue and making the press. I will post the press pictures when I do my post on my build.

As far as veneering, I have never used dowels like Bill. I generally have used several layers of parchment or wax paper and pulled one sheet out at a time. One has to be careful to not trap the wax paper in there, so dowels may help. My laminate counters have a piece of wax paper trapped

inside. With the veneer that I had, a few seconds of light sanding seemed to improve adhesion. So for me, my original problems (not including the 2 ply veneer) were using thin veneer that did not lay flat, using a less effective contact cement, and not sanding for better adhesion. You would have a hard time not improving on my initial results.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Thu, 07 Jul 2011 03:02:42 GMT

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Dave, I'll really look forward to seeing your press. A few years ago, when veneering with PPR (urea resin), I bought half a dozen cider press type screw clamps on sale from Woodcraft thinking I would build a press. Turned out I would have needed 2 dozen and a brooklyn bridge construct of angle iron so they're stored away somewhere.

I've also thought of vacuum bagging, the \$300 for the pump and bags doesn't bother me so much as having to veneer both sides of the panels, then gluing up, then edge-banding and so forth.

PPR is the King of veneer glues and with Bill Martinellis help, how I taught myself to do this:

Takes lotsa clamps, 24 hour clamp time and you still have bubbles that need to be heated and re-clamped.

Weldwood Contact Adhesive, the solvent kind, NOT the water base or gel, is the answer to "lets listen to these things this week"!

A ridiculous amount of custom, high-end furniture is made with it, not just countertops. BUT, you can't use unbacked, or what we call leaves of veneer. The pros mostly use paper backed cause it's cheaper than 2 ply. I like NBL 'cause there is no black line in lighter veneers like Maple and Cherry and it's really flexible, draping a 3/4" round-over with ease. I pay about \$75 for those species and Walnut plus about \$20 shipping for a 4x8 sheet.

One drawback to laid-up 4x8s as opposed to leaves is you can't bookmatch and have no choice of grain. The new Walnut speakers look exciting at first, but frankly, they're kinda "busy" up close day-after-day.

I prefer the more straight-grained look of the same veneer, different batch that made the 4Pis. I suspect that I should be able to specify either rotary (busy) or flat cut (straight-grained) in the future. I'm already planning the next build, a pair of 2Pi Towers with the S-B 29 Tweeter, which will be 1/4 sawn Cherry.

File Attachments

1) [Busy Shop 013_1.jpg](#), downloaded 5794 times

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [Dave_S](#) on Fri, 08 Jul 2011 03:48:43 GMT

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Bill,

I may start my build post this weekend, even though the speakers will not be fully complete. I have 8 clamps like the ones you are talking about. They are made by Jorgenson. You are right about the force needed. The glue bottle says one should have 100-225 psi of force. I reached 10 psi if lucky. I think the clamp force is closer to a vacuum press, which could never exceed 14.7 psi (atmospheric pressure). I would definitely try the glue you recommended next time. Since you have clamps already, the press that I designed may be at least worth considering. I will probably add 4 more clamps for my next project. Trying some fancier veneers like you use would be interesting. I like zebrawood, but I have never found the right project for it. With the clamps, I might be able to experiment on small projects.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [justphil](#) on Thu, 14 Jul 2011 03:52:01 GMT

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Well I have made the decision to paint and now my journey begins. I plan on taking my time and just doing what I can =)

This is the work area I have. It aint much but it works. The bench folds up against the wall. I need to lower it to the height of the table saw. I thought I would like it a bit higher but I was wrong.

I am starting with getting the stands painted. I decided I wanted more roundover. The pvc pipes you saw on the bench will be filled with sand to add weight.

This is the MDF sanded and now ready to be sealed. I have read ALLOT online and MDF edges are supposed to be hell. I am going to try the 50/50 glue/water method and seal the entire pieces then prime sand and paint.

I hope all these pics are ok to post.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 14 Jul 2011 17:35:39 GMT

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Wow, looks nice!

edges like that. All of my early models did. It looks great when painted, I think.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Fri, 15 Jul 2011 03:16:07 GMT
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Well I am kinda ticked at myself. I found some good primer I had sitting around and thought I would try some on a scrap piece. I put it on and it seemed amazing. It sanded well and covered evenly. Well after painting all my pieces I am now finding it doesnt sand for beans and I am having to work three times harder to get it done. I should have stuck with my original plan.

What I am noticing though is that I am sanding my pieces VERY well and the grain of the MDF doesnt seem open at all on the edges. Why would the edge be any different then the top? Its an all man made product and isnt like plywood in layers. Is it maybe sealed on the top and bottom in some way before you get it maybe?

If you have paineted MDF before what did you do?

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [petew](#) on Fri, 15 Jul 2011 15:08:35 GMT
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MDF is denser on the surface and softer in the core. It's part of the manufacturing process where a thick spongy mat of fiber and special sauce is rolled and cooked to finished thickness.

I'm enjoying following your progress. Looking forward to building myself four two's for surrounds then a trio of fours.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Sun, 17 Jul 2011 15:08:36 GMT
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Well after much frustration and stubbornness I finally got my stands painted. They are not as perfect as I would like them to be, but that is usually how I feel about projects I undertake. My wife thinks they look great and truthfully that is all I care about=) I am going to try and fix a cpl little spots on the bases and hope I don't screw them up lol.

This was the bad primer job I did with a brush. I then got a small roller and redid the primer. I wanted a smoother finish but will just have to live with what I got.

I painted them with a Satin Black paint. I was hoping it would have been a little less "sheeny" but I am still happy.

OK I know its cheating =-) but my neighbor has a body shop. I talked to him yesterday about the possibility of him helping me get my speakers painted as I want them to look much better than my stands. He said to bring them over whenever I am ready. SCORE!!!!

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 17 Jul 2011 16:12:08 GMT

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That's the way to do it! Sometimes it's fun to DIY, other times, it's better to take it to the shop. It really depends on whether or not you have the right tools for the job. I think the car body shop can put an excellent paint job on the cabinets, because they're set up to do it and have all the right stuff.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [justphil](#) on Sun, 17 Jul 2011 16:54:45 GMT

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OK I am amazed right now. I went out and hit the bases with some 400grit wet/dry (wet) and OMG. I am such a mental midget. These things are now something I can be proud of. I don't know why I wasn't going to do this. I can see now that if I want I can get away with finishing the speakers however I want. This is taking out any and all imperfections. I am not changing my mind about the body guy but look forward to at least using his spray booth for that just right finish. The sky is the limit now.

Subject: Re: Excited =)

Posted by [justphil](#) on Sat, 23 Jul 2011 18:22:30 GMT

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I was going to have the body guy spray these but opted to complete the project myself. I felt like a cheater and really feel I should finish it.

I got the speakers all finished primered and sanded

1st coat of paint is on. I liked the textured look the roller gave on the primer but this just isn

turning out the same with the paint.

I thought the paint was a latex but it is an oil base. I have never used an oil base paint before. It seems to have its good and bad points. I am now wishing I would have sprayed instead of rolling but its a bit late now. I will sand them and give them another coat. Hopefully at that point I can fine sand and seal them and be done.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Mon, 25 Jul 2011 14:32:08 GMT
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OK they are finished and back in action. I am pleased with the outcome, but for as much work as I put into the finish they should look better IMO.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 25 Jul 2011 15:18:05 GMT
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Very attractive! I think they look awesome!

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [Aki](#) on Mon, 25 Jul 2011 23:30:51 GMT
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Wow, that looks really nice painted. Great job!

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 00:49:20 GMT
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Thank you both for your kind words.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [dutchswan0311](#) on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 02:15:38 GMT
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blah. you make me want to chuck my first 1pi and start all over.

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [justphil](#) on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 02:22:28 GMT
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OMG I want to smack you. That pic you posted of your 1pi made me mad I used MDF =)

Subject: Re: Excited =)
Posted by [corradizo](#) on Wed, 03 Sep 2014 04:14:19 GMT
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Hi,

Great build log!

Can you tell me how you like them now that its been a couple of years? Would you change anything?

I was considering doing all 1pi's for LCR. I can possibly fit all 2pi's. Wife is the reason for going smaller. I need to put them in the walls and i worry the 2pi won't fit between the studs. I have been modeling a 14.5 x 34 x 5 version of the 2pi that i can fit between studs and have it sit flush with the wall. I worry about messing with the original design. Anyhow, I have 2 x 15" sealed subs so I definitely have below 80hz covered. My room is a media area, not a real theater per se.

Thanks,

Pete
