
Subject: The Karma Indignia

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Mon, 20 Jun 2011 11:15:28 GMT

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This little speaker has been hanging around on the Audio Karma forum, and it also appeared in the January 2011 Parts Express sale flyer, which earned it a position in the PE project showcase. <http://www.parts-express.com/projectshowcase/indexn.cfm?project=KarmaIndignia>

This project intrigued me because it costs about the same as the BR-1 speaker kit that I exhibited at the LSAF a few years ago, and which I build and sell to friends for my cost. The retail price for all the parts, including a pair of pre-built BR-1 enclosures, is about \$200. I knew if it sounds even better than the BR-1 kit it would be a real bargain, because you can use a good sounding \$200 pair of speakers with a \$99 Best Buy Insignia stereo receiver and any \$50 DVD player to build a good sounding \$350 stereo system.

A \$350 stereo solves the most important problem in recorded music today: almost everybody I know (who isn't an audiophile) listens to it on equipment that doesn't come even close to conveying the emotion of the music. Whether it's Giovanni Gabrielli or Govt. Mule, it's going to sound like crap on most computer speakers, boom boxes, or \$10 earbuds. Most people can't afford a \$5K stereo system, but they can afford a \$350 one if they really want it.

So I completed my Indignia pair a few days ago and they sound wonderful, with good but not exaggerated bass, midrange and treble to die for, and a great soundstage. The only downside is that they achieve this at the cost of efficiency, and they can play only so loud before the woofer runs out of steam and starts to make noise. They are not a party speaker, but they're great for listening at reasonable volume levels.

The key to building them for less than \$200 is to use a pair of the \$54 Parts Express #300-645 enclosures. These are intended for the PE 6.5" classic paper cone woofer, and the 7" aluminum cone woofer used in the Indignias will not fit into the woofer recess, but it will cover it nicely if new pilot holes are carefully drilled into the baffle. If you use the furniture-finished curved cabinets shown in the project showcase the cost will bump up to more than \$300 and you'll have to cut your own driver and port holes. This is already done for you with the BR-1 cabinets. With either alternative you still have to assemble and solder the crossover parts, which I mounted on a 4" by 7" piece of perfboard and hot glued to the bottom of the enclosure.

Here's the measured in-room response in my relatively small upstairs listening room (1/3 octave smoothing, microphone placed at tweeter level at one meter):

File Attachments

1) [Indignia.bmp](#), downloaded 9302 times

Subject: Re: The Karma Indignia

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Mon, 20 Jun 2011 11:17:53 GMT

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Here's a picture of an Indignia built into the BR-1 enclosure:

File Attachments

1) [003.JPG](#), downloaded 9173 times

Subject: Re: The Karma Indignia

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Mon, 20 Jun 2011 11:24:11 GMT

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And here's a picture of the Indignia in the system. Yes, the 500w/ch IcePower amp is a bit of overkill

File Attachments

1) [002.JPG](#), downloaded 9051 times

Subject: Re: The Karma Indignia

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 20 Jun 2011 14:21:24 GMT

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Really neat looking little speakers, Fred. Nice for surrounds or mini-monitors for a small system. Do you happen to know the sensitivity?

Subject: Re: The Karma Indignia

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Mon, 20 Jun 2011 15:23:29 GMT

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Wayne Parham wrote on Mon, 20 June 2011 09:21

Really neat looking little speakers, Fred. Nice for surrounds or mini-monitors for a small system. Do you happen to know the sensitivity?

The woofer's sensitivity is advertised as 85dB. So when you place a 1.5mH iron core inductor with 0.22 ohms DCR it probably will be in the 84dB range. Flea power tube amps need not apply for the job of driving these speakers, but the typical owner will be using a 100w/ch mass market

receiver, which will drive these 8 ohm speakers ok.
