Subject: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Mon, 25 Jul 2011 15:52:41 GMT
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Hey everyone...

I am building 4pis and 1pis as a part of a dinner theater, but have decided to also build a pair of 3pi speakers for our stage. My other pi builds are to spec and are just being painted black, as they are either fully or mostly concealed from view.

The 3pis, however, will be very prominent on the stage, most likely on pole stands. I want to take extra care in making these look beautiful. I thought I would create this thread for those who have already built a 3pi to post a picture of their cabinet, and maybe even provide a description of how they customized the enclosure for their 3pi. Thanks in advance to anyone who participates in giving me ideas!

(Wayne, may I have the plans for the 3pi? Thanks again!)

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 25 Jul 2011 17:46:16 GMT
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Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Mon, 25 Jul 2011 18:27:19 GMT
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Thanks for kicking it off Wayne! Do you get that affect by simply building the cabinet, and then attaching an additional panel to the front with a "U" cut into it? How many front panels are used? 2? 3? It looks like in that picture that the woofer is recessed into that lighter colored stained panel. Is that so, or is just attached to the outside of that panel?

Also, I have seen pictures of these with the grills on. Can you advise how you are attaching the grills to these?

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 25 Jul 2011 18:39:01 GMT

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The front face has an additional panel with the "U" shaped cut to cradle the grille. The grille is held in place with neodymium magnets inserted into the wood and covered by the veneer.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 02:00:10 GMT
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I see there are many shapes and sizes for the neodymium magnets available online. Can you recommend the type that you use?

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by justphil on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 02:20:05 GMT
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Those are so sexy!

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 03:45:51 GMT
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dutchswan0311 wrote on Mon, 25 July 2011 21:00I see there are many shapes and sizes for the neodymium magnets available online. Can you recommend the type that you use?
Doesn't really matter - Just buy the little cylindrical magnets that are about 1/4" or 3/8", drill holes in the wood, insert a dab of PL adhesive and insert the magnets. Be sure and observe polarity so the magnets attract, of course.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 11:26:40 GMT
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I was looking at the 3/8 x 3/8 cylinders. How many of them does the application require?

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 12:54:39 GMT
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They're pretty strong. I used six on my grilles. Actually twelve - six in the grille mating with six in the cabinet.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 14:04:43 GMT
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Well.good...they.come in packs of 12 (maybe that.influenced your build).

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 21:14:42 GMT
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You have plans that you give on how to build the cabinets...you should do the same for the grills.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Wed, 27 Jul 2011 00:59:15 GMT
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You know, it just occurred to me; I am reinforcing my three 4pis and twelve 1pis with 4 horned subs. If I use two 3pis for live music on the stage, do I need to reinforce those with a sub or two as well? If so, would it be strange for the 4 horned subs to do the job if they are not on the stage? If would be like the main sound coming from in front of you, but the deep bass coming from your left. I have always wondered just how "omnidirectional" a sub really seems.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 27 Jul 2011 03:40:10 GMT
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It never hurts to add subs, but I think four should suffice. Just put them in different places, not grouped together like you would if they were outdoors. Put them in four corners or four wall midpoints.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Wed, 27 Jul 2011 17:25:08 GMT
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My original plan was do do something like this:

But then I thought about doing the following (and this is my current thinking). I realize this may not be optimal subwoofer placement, but the subs are very large, and need to be concealed wherever they are located. The false wall will have the speakers and subs concealed behind it with the bottom of the screen approximately 6' up and a gas only fireplace underneath between the pairs of subs.

Thoughts?

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 27 Jul 2011 18:47:08 GMT
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One has to work with what they have, and I certainly understand aesthetic placement limitations. What I would suggest is to put the hornsubs where they fit, being sensitive to your decor. They'll provide the oomph for the bottom end. Then place two to four smaller subs - just vented direct radiators - in other places around the room. Perhaps do two flanking subs, placed near the mains, and two more distant subs, maybe on the opposite side of the room from the hornsubs, near the spiral staircase. These smaller subs are much easier to fit into the decor, and they shouldn't need the SPL capacity. They'll just be there for smoothing. See the last few pages of the "High-Fidelity Uniform-Directivity" document for more information on this approach:
High-Fidelity Uniform-Directivity Loudspeakers

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Shane on Fri, 29 Jul 2011 04:59:30 GMT
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I've got a few pics of different Pi speakers on my photo site here:

http://shanemoorephotography.smugmug.com/Electronics/Pi-Speakers

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Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Fri, 29 Jul 2011 13:34:41 GMT
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Shane wrote on Thu, 28 July 2011 23:59I've got a few pics of different Pi speakers on my photo site here:

http://shanemoorephotography.smugmug.com/Electronics/Pi-Speakers

Shane,

Why am I seeing pictures labeled 4pi that appear to be 3pi? Unless there is a version of the 4pi that uses a larger cabinet, a round port, and centers the horn over the midwoofer? I also saw a photo labeled "theater three pi" that seemed to have a much taller enclosure than what the plans call for.

I still think the 3pi picture Wayne provided show the best artistry with wood so far.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Shane on Fri, 29 Jul 2011 13:41:49 GMT
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Some of the speakers on my page are modified builds that don't conform exactly to Wayne's plans.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 29 Jul 2011 15:21:22 GMT
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I do see one model in Shane's photos that was a modified version of one of my designs. It has a CD horn with sharp edges (probably an Eminence H295) and the cabinet dimensions are nonstandard. However, most of the the speakers I see on Shane's page are stock builds. I think what is confusing is that they are obsolete models.

A few years back, I reduced the numbers of speaker in the line, basically culling out all but those I

thought were the best. In some cases, what used to be two different "series" (Studio, Theater, Professional, etc.) are now two different options for the same speaker. The Stage and

current line.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by dutchswan0311 on Fri, 29 Jul 2011 16:12:31 GMT
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It seemed like you have been at this for a while, and it stood to reason that there would have been an evolution of your designs.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Bane2871 on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 22:15:43 GMT
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Wayne Parham wrote on Mon, 25 July 2011 12:46

Wayne,

What veneer and finish did you use on these cabinets? I'd like to try something similar.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 23:06:30 GMT
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They're bubinga with a thick coat of buffed lacquer. The lighter wood under the grilles is white ash.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Speqtre on Sat, 15 Oct 2011 15:27:40 GMT
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No love for 3pi builds?

Wayne, whom we know did a great job, is it?

C'mon, let's see some pride you DIY'ers out there!

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Shane on Sat, 15 Oct 2011 17:07:31 GMT
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Wayne's 3 Pi's are the only ones I've ever seen or heard in person. I've seen a couple of pairs sold over the last two years on Audiogon. They are my favorite of all of his speakers though.

For those interested in the veneer on Wayne's 3 Pi's, here is a closer look.

Subject: Re: Attention Everyone: Post Pictures of your 3pi speaker here
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 16 Oct 2011 13:58:01 GMT
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You always take such good looking pictures, Shane. Thanks for posting that.

There are more photos of various kit builds here:

Reviews:

And of course, the spec sheet:
