Subject: Audiophile words
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 12 Aug 2011 03:23:29 GMT
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I've generally avoided using "audiophile words" as adjectives to describe sound quality, preferring to talk about things in a more concrete, technical manner. But I do know that many people try to describe qualities using adjectives they know, sort of going by the "feel" of the word. So I thought I'd start a little list of audiophile words. Chime in with your favorites.

Here are a few to get us started:

Fast bass - usually low Qts woofers, tend to have little extension and gradual rolloff
Warm - tends to be heavier in the midbass and lower midrange than the upper midtrange and treble
Full, Fat or Round - deep bass extension
Flabby or Boomy - low Qts, often underdamped, peaks in the bass
Shouty - strong in the upper midrange overtone region
Shrill - strong in the treble, weak in the lower midrange and bass
Strident - Like shouty or shrill, but maybe not as strong
Crisp - strong in the top octave
Air or Sparkle - the top octave
Tilted up response - slightly stronger in the treble than the bass, usually with a uniform, gradual rise
Tilted down response - slightly stronger in the bass than the treble, usually with a uniform, gradual fall
Beamy - narrow directivity, often collapsing with frequency. Sometimes used the same as "shouty"

Subject: Re: Audiophile words
Posted by gofar99 on Sat, 13 Aug 2011 18:17:32 GMT
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Hi Wayne, How about descriptions for Forward, Fuzzy and Detailed to add to the list.

Subject: Re: Audiophile words
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 14 Aug 2011 01:57:26 GMT
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Good ones, please do tell.

When I've heard people use the word "forward", they've always meant more midrange and treble than bass. Same thing with "detailed". Can't say I've ever heard anyone say something sounded

"fuzzy", but I would guess they meant noisy, like a preamp with poor a high noise floor. I dunno. What's your take on "fuzzy"? What did they mean?

That brings up an opposite - the word "black" is often used by tube amp guys to describe a very high signal-to-noise ratio, a very low noise floor, where nothing can be heard between passages.

Forward or Detailed - over-represented midrange and treble, generally lacking bass
Fuzzy - poor signal-to-noise ratio(?)
Black - good signal-to-noise ratio, as in no sound in-between musical passages

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Subject: Re: Audiophile words
Posted by Shane on Sun, 14 Aug 2011 05:00:00 GMT
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Audiospeak. Gotta love it because everyone has a different idea of what a description actually means. Nice go at the definitions Wayne!

Subject: Re: Audiophile words
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 14 Aug 2011 19:25:33 GMT
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Hi, Yes indeed. I try to avoid it when ever possible. But everyone wants to know how something sounds. Fuzzy would be indistinct. Especially on voices. Black is a good description of a quiet amplifier. I figure based on my own data and system that it occurs in the -80-85 db range. That is part of the reason I won't post any projects until they get to that level. As opposed to "black", "dark" is usually referring to a lack of detail and usually a poor response in the mids and upper ranges.

Now for some fun.... I use the description of "like a 6 transistor radio" to describe really bad sound. Everyone seems to be able to figure that one out.

Subject: Re: Audiophile words
Posted by Vaiger on Sat, 19 Mar 2016 19:58:08 GMT
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I knew a woman once whose voice was "shrill". A bit on a the nasal side as well.

Those are some good lists. I will try to add my own sometime soon

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