Subject: Dressing up DIY projects
Posted by colinhester on Sat, 05 Nov 2005 19:14:03 GMT
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Ran across this site. I asked around and seems to be a very reputable business. I plan on ordering some WBT-type jacks and some of these cool tube sockets surrounds (to cover up my inability to use a drill press correctly.)
http://www.vt4c.com/shop/program/main.php

Subject: Re: Dressing up DIY projects
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 05 Nov 2005 19:31:11 GMT
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Nice!I love the looks of brushed aluminum and orther polished metals. Looks great with tubes glowing.

Subject: Re: Dressing up DIY projects
Posted by PakProtector on Sun, 06 Nov 2005 11:09:45 GMT
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That is ont of the coolest looking bits. Too bad it won't work for the old Cinch and Amphenol stuff I salvage from Tek 'scopes...:(I usually have other issues with a build besides the sockets and hole drilling. Pro looking chassis stuff is expensive in 1-of quantity. Hell, it's expensive period compared to the rest of the budget.I am still trying to figure a what to do the new Merlin build. They are not going to be light. Filament Iron, HV power...Fortunately those outputs aren't any bigger than they have to be.Maybe I should stick to phono stages instead...?cheers,Douglas

Subject: Re: Dressing up DIY projects
Posted by Damir on Sun, 06 Nov 2005 12:42:32 GMT
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I just thought about it ("Merlin")- probably, to make it "acceptable" to the "average" DIY-er, PCB plan for SS components is a "must"...

Subject: Re: Dressing up DIY projects
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 06 Nov 2005 17:24:48 GMT
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Yep.

Subject: Re: It's a steal!
Posted by Bill Epstein on Mon, 07 Nov 2005 22:23:42 GMT
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What's the catch?

Subject: Re: It's a steal!
Posted by colinhester on Mon, 07 Nov 2005 23:17:45 GMT
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The vendor is in Hong Kong. Shipping will run about $20 for what I need. Do you see something you'd like? Tell me and I'll get it. You can pay me back later.....Later, Colin

Subject: I agree...
Posted by PakProtector on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 11:10:17 GMT
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but it makes it hard to build in my shop....:)The Linestage with its very similar SE version of the Merlin front end almost got put on a single board. I didn't so I would not have to disconnnect the small .3 mA CCS I robbed from another pair of amps. Either way, with a pair of heatsinks, ir should be done with a few square inches. I will work on this. One of the guys who bought a pair of the OPTx's is good with PCB software.cheers,Douglas

Subject: Re: I agree...
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 12:41:57 GMT
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The thing about the prebuilt Douglas is then there is a standard that makes it easier to troubleshoot and to adjust the bias. Instead of everyone having their own wiring scheme.Easier for you to know what people mean if they have to describe a problem that might be in the wireing.Thanks as always.

Subject: Re: I agree...
Posted by PakProtector on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 16:17:53 GMT
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there are a whole bunch of things that would get done iff I were on a money making enterprise. Or even if I were looking to spead the technology as quickly as is possible. A few notes:generating PCB's takes funding. I don't expect to put it up, or demand that somebody else does in order to partake of the design. It leaves a bit of chicken-egg sort of issue: the amp can't be built easily w/o it, as it looks daunting. And one can't say how good it sounds w/o building it.The plan might look like this:gather up the Iron and PCB's to build Merlin in stereo pair/mono-block quantity. Offer it for sale in a 0-profit price point. This would still run afoul of the marketing prohibitions of the ART forums. It would also require investment to gather the Iron, and that runs afoul of my low funding availablity for such a project.Solutions? design a PCB pattern for those who would self-etch at home? or provide the pattern to their etching company. Not so bad an idea actually. Spec the parts, and leave a bit of drilling to the builders. heatsinks, and the 20-30k plate loads would dictate the hole spacing.I do hate to specify all the details. Takes the freedom to experiment and learn right out of the project. It laso makes the whole project a whole lot more 'do-able' for the less experienced population, yes?The PCB also leaves things like surface-mount parts a whole lot easier to deal with. Gate stoppers are far better done with SMT bits. Heard much good stuff about some of the thick-film, small SMT bits too.I won't doo it all, but the projects folder would certainly benefit from a PCB artwork file for the cascode front end circuitry required to build Merlin as drawn...cheers,Douglas

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Subject: How much of an investment?
Posted by colinhester on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 16:31:08 GMT
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How much in start-up funds are you needing? This is one of the things I wanted to talk to you about. Yeah, I know I still owe you a phone call. Things around the house are starting to settle down. We have one more condo to punch out, and we'll be done for the year - hopefully.....Colin

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Subject: Re: I agree...
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 16:56:46 GMT

Thats true but say we look at it this way; how many of us have a scope and are experienced enough to use it? The possibility of driving the amp into oscillation is very real with the CCS; more so than with a resistor load, is that correct?Also you should not have to build a business; unless of course you want to, but there should be someway to have the design etched for each individual as they choose. The etched design would be applicable to more than one circuit is that right?

Subject: Re: I agree...
Posted by PakProtector on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 19:27:35 GMT

Well now...having the amp oscillate from a CCS is an interesting prospect. If the CCS does not oscillate(and that's easy enough), it is certainly not going to cause the amp to oscillate because there is a CCS instead of a resistor where I am using them.So, what am I using CCS-es for? Voltage references. With Ohm's Law, and a stable resistance I am creating variable voltages(by varying the R, or stable voltages by *NOT* varying either R or 'i'. In the tail load of the Schmitt inverter, an infinite R(and V for it to work across) makes the AC balance nearly perfect. The heater-cathode capacitance provides a substantial bypass and likely is the contributing factor in the AC imbalance at HF. This can be transferred to primary-secondary coupling for the case of DH valves. There will always be a leakage path. Make it small compared to the stuff which does matter and the imbalance will be hard to measure.Building a CCS which does not oscillate is fairly easy, and a building-block CCS which does not cause trouble has been built by a few of you with Guinevere.The dual CCS and upper element parts of the cascode layout may take a bit. I'll draw it by hand and see if somebody can masage it to a point where it can be done on a proper Cu/TFE PCB(complete with thru-holes for mounting the bits!).I may decide to act as consultant to somebody who wishes to start a business. That is the sort of thing I wind up doing anyway, no sense trying to get paid for it...:) I like sharing the audio magic I happen to discover. Not that the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition would prohibit a bit of Profit.http://www.dmwright.com/html/ferengi.htmI especially like 11, 12 and 27. 57 is eternal.The CCS-based circuitry for Merlin ought to be done with a PCB. Upon further investigation, there are two folks who are in on the current OPTx buy who have experience with PCB printing. I will investigate and see if we can get a run made, or if the artwork can be made public. Let me make a call or two and see what I can turn up. I would like a few of them myself for that matter. Plan on 5W Mills WW plate loads and one more thing can be incorporated into a simple board...:)cheers,Douglas

Subject: Re: I agree...
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 20:30:56 GMT

Maybe you could charge by the hour for consulting on troubleshooting or something? Just kidding; just so you know it's appreciated. I have to go read that link now.Thanks again.

Subject: what's your favourite?
Posted by PakProtector on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 21:26:59 GMT
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44 is right there: Never confuse wisdom with luck.8 is a good warning to remember: Small print leads to large risk.cheers,Douglas

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Subject: Re: what's your favourite?
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 08 Nov 2005 23:11:59 GMT
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Here's my list:48/49 The bigger the smile; the sharper the knife190 hear all trust nothing217 you can't free a fish from water285 no good deed ever goes unpunished

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Subject: Re: Dressing up DIY projects
Posted by John Chleapas on Wed, 09 Nov 2005 22:18:05 GMT
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Thanks! They also have some drill bits for cutting out tube sockets. They have some nice stuff to be sure. Shipping will be a bit steep to the USA me thinks. These tube socket covers look very professional. To go one step further I might have the two drilled aluminum top chassis plates and these socket covers cermachromed. There is a company that put on the cermachrome coating on my headers and my intake for my mustang. It really looks like a real chrome finish, but is also great for reducing heat in a engine. I bet it might also help reduce some of the heat that will be generated from my 300b mono blocks. Now that I just scrounged my two vintage Triad R-21A power transformers I should have all of the iron to start building the amps over this coming winter at long last. John

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