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Subject: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Fri, 28 Oct 2011 22:53:29 GMT  
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Hi Everyone, It's the mad (or demented) audio guy with some ramblings about phono preamps. I was sort of prodded into comparing a kit phono preamp to one I already had. Being the curious person I am, I decided to compare all six of the ones I had easy access to. A bad move in some ways as it was a lot of work and it is difficult to be objective when one is my own design. I call that the proud papa syndrome. Anyhow I did it and the results are attached. Some interesting results and conclusions.

#### File Attachments

1) [COMPARISONOF PHONOGRAPH PREAMPS.doc](#), downloaded 722 times

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 29 Oct 2011 00:41:11 GMT  
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Very interesting write-up, Bruce. Thanks!

The only thing is I wish you had one or two other tube phono stages, like the Pro-Ject or Bellari.

I do realize thought this is what you had on hand. Can't wait to hear your new phono stage! I really need to spend some time with one of your amps too.

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sat, 29 Oct 2011 01:13:18 GMT  
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Hi Wayne, I wish I would have had a few other tube preamps around as well. As it was, I didn't use the really good phono sections of the two SS Marantz's I have or the Kenwood, Pioneer or the two pro preamps. I will have the amps and preamps at LSAF.

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Tue, 01 Nov 2011 12:28:12 GMT  
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This is a great review! Unlike the reviews I read in the audio magazines, this would actually be useful if I were in the market for a reasonably priced phono preamp. I hate to be so cynical, but a review that actually provides useful information. What a novel idea!

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Tue, 01 Nov 2011 12:35:31 GMT  
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Is the Groove a different product from the PhonoWatt?

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 01 Nov 2011 15:52:37 GMT  
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Hi Fred, Thanks for the kind words. The preamps are the same. Just that from the time it first was cooked up, until it was perfected I asked for ideas on the name. Shane came up with the present one and I owe him an XL Oddwatt "T" shirt when we can get some made up.

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 08 Dec 2018 15:11:51 GMT  
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In the first post of this thread, there is a review linked that mentions the Audio Groove phono stage.

Bruce - Is that product still available? Is it available in kit form? If not available, do you have another tube phono stage in your product line?

I ask because all the discussions lately remind me that you've had a lot of experience with both tubes and vinyl and I'd like to know what Santa can pick up in your shop. 8)

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2018 19:04:39 GMT  
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Hi Wayne, Unfortunately it is not yet available. We have been unable to secure a suitable chassis manufacturer. All that have reasonable prices want lots of over 100 per type. That puts it out of our range. Companies that will do 10-25 want almost \$200 for each chassis. At that price we will end up costing as much as the stuff we want to beat. Our goal was and is to make high quality audio available at reasonable prices. The "improved" economy has hurt our ability to do that. Worse it is impacting existing products. Yes we could outsource to Asia, but we like being as much USA as we can. Since I figure you are good with a soldering iron....you can always DIY one. The project on the diyaudioprojects site and a similar one I have in Audio Express can lead to a great build. Not a novice project, but I figure you would have no trouble.

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2018 23:29:37 GMT  
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Forgive me if we've discussed this before, but I think you can probably find a Metcase cabinet that would work for you. They have a lot of standard enclosures with removable panels, and you can send the front, rear and top panels to a shop to be punched and silk screened.

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Mon, 10 Dec 2018 14:03:25 GMT  
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Hi Wayne, getting a standard chassis is no problem, it is the punching and silk screening that causes the difficulty. If you know of a source it could be helpful. We have the specs in various formats. Some of the chassis have welded posts, tabs and captive nuts, but we could change that if it was a deal breaker.

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 10 Dec 2018 14:43:43 GMT  
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I've worked with Ideal Specialty in Tulsa and been very pleased. Details at the link below (in the IR Remote Control thread):  
[IR Remote Control](#)

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Subject: Re: Informal Phono Preamp Comparison  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 11 Dec 2018 21:42:48 GMT  
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Hi, I'll have to check them out. Thanks.

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