
Subject: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 08:54:08 GMT
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I'll try to keep this short. I have a 5 year old Sony BR player that I have been using to play CDs. The problem I have with that is that the TV insists on turning on when the DVD player is on. That runs a 300 watt lamp to show tracks. If I turn off the BR it turns off the TV, and if I turn off the TV, it turns off the BR. Very aggravating.

It's been a long time since I had a dedicated CD player, so I connected a 10 year old Yamaha DVD player to the CD input on my Pioneer Receiver. That bypasses the TV on problem.

However, I noticed that the old Yamaha DVD (red laser) player sounds noticeably different from the BR player when playing CDs. A lot of the harshness from the BR player disappears, the bass increases, and the overall effect is more desirable.

I can't decide which is more accurate because I have no frame of reference. So, it seems people do use discrete CD players and they don't seem to cost that much. Can you give me some good but middle range price CD players to try?

I'm not paying McIntosh \$5K for a cd player, but I don't know what to pick from. I know I don't want anything Sony. The BR is a Sony BDP-s500 which is about 5 years old, and the Yamaha is about ten years old (and is a standard DVD player).

Short of a "good" CD player recommendation, I'm shooting in the dark. My Pioneer Rec has optial and cable digital inputs (as do the Yamaha outputs. I guess I'm asking for something that is not too hot and not too cold, but just right. Really just looking for a player that a lot of people like. I certainly don't need to be using up a 300 watt projector bulb for hours to display the track that is playing.

I can't find anyway to stop the interaction between the TV and the BR. If I turn off the TV, it turns the BR off. If I turn on the BR, it turns the TV on. I can't find an option to stop this, except pulling the HDMI out of the BR player which is using a separate cable to the Pioneer Rec for sound.

Now, I'm not sure that it is a good idea to use a HD player for CDs at all.

Whatever you can recommend would be appreciated.

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 14:53:31 GMT
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Hi, I suspect there is some way to get the player to not turn on the TV, but it still sidesteps the issue that it is probably not up to current levels of performance. I have two players. The main one

in my audio system is an OPPO 83SE. (the SE part is key) This is a blue ray one and the factory upgraded the audio. It is excellent at both audio and video. There are a few other high end variations of the player, but generally avoid the standard version. The newest model (this one is 2 years old) is supposed to be even better. They run just under \$1K. My back up is a Marantz CD5001. It only does CDs. Quite nice as well and the newer models I understand do play some of the other CD based media. You should be able to get the newer ones for under \$400.

I am sure other folk will have some thoughts on this as well.

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 16:26:45 GMT
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Thanks for the help! I suspect the Yamaha is losing some information, and that the Blu-ray never got much attention to its CD role.

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 16:53:44 GMT
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I have found the high-end BluRay players are hands down better sounding than the best CD players. I'm even comparing with the uber expensive CD players from niche companies. This is certainly true when BluRay audio is used for source material, although there aren't many selections out there yet. The list is growing though.

I have both an Audio Note CD2.1x CD player and a Denon 3800BCDI BluRay player, by the way. The Audio Note player is really nice, well built, has tube output and uses good components throughout. It costs about \$3500 new. The Denon player was the first audiophile BluRay player, and also uses good components throughout. It cost \$2000 new. Both are very high quality units, but as much as the Audio Note goes the distance to make CDs sound as good as possible, it's just not as good a media as BluRay. Once you put a BluRay disk in the Denon, it sounds night and day better.

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 18:11:34 GMT
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Thanks, Wayne

I was wondering if Blu-ray might not be a better source for CDs than red laser, but I wasn't sure. Not necessarily the small beam of a blue/violet laser, but all the processing capability that has to be included to play BR.

The Sony BR I have is one of the first that was on the market. It looks huge compared to the new BR players I see now, and it cost \$650. Now I've seen good brands for half that, that are about half the size.

I have to ask what is all the fuss about tube amplifiers? If you looked at a square wave on an o-scope made by a tube, it wouldn't be very square. I know people don't listen to square waves, but I can't hear any difference between good transistor amps and tube amps. I do remember that tubes are prone to hum, and that they drift off spec as they age. The first analog computers were a failure because the tubes drifted with age. Just curious.

With the Yamaha DVD player, your Three Pi speakers sound excellent in straight stereo and Pioneer's standard movie mode, which uses the center channel and a little ambiance from the surrounds. With the BR, stereo doesn't sound quite as good.

I think I'll probably opt for a new BR player. It would be an upgrade to movies as well as music. I really want 6.x music discs to take off. They are awesome.

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 18:34:54 GMT
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Hi, What a can of worms that opens (about tube amps). Much of what you said was true in the past. The newer designs are very different. The issue with square waves is to some extent still true as virtually all tube amps use output transformers. However the linearity on more common musical signals is quite excellent. I can easily get response within 0.1db from below 20HZ to as far up as I choose (usually about 40-50K HZ). Distortion at normal levels is well below 1% (often in the 0.1% and lower range) and hum and noise at about -85-95 db. That is well below audible. Tube life in well designed gear is now a lot longer than most folks will ever need. The remaining issues are more a matter of preference. Tube and SS equipment sound different. There has been considerable discussion for years as why and which is better. Much of which I consider irrelevant. One thing for sure, if tube equipment was inferior, then all the mega dollar stuff would not exist. I own a lot of premium SS gear and tube gear. My preference is for the tube sound. To be fair I may be a bit prejudiced as I design high performance tube equipment. You really owe it to yourself to seek out a quality hi-fi store and listen to some of the newer tube gear. You may well be surprised at the sound.

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 19:06:55 GMT
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You're probably right. I haven't heard a tube amp in years. I do know that transistor amps are much more finicky about impedance dropping too low.

I have an older Pioneer Elite that is 120 x 7 @ 8 ohms. That is not RMS, it is some kind of average power (and I think it is a bit of a marketing ruse). The receiver is an excellent one though. It will put out more distortion free volume than I can stand.

But, if the impedance drops a hair below 6 ohms, it trips a breaker. Four ohm speakers won't fly with it.

I'm on the other side of vinyl too. The dynamic range available in digital format, which had become the holy grail, isn't there on vinyl. And bass that would throw the best stylus right out of a groove is a digital plus. And the surface noise no matter how well I took care of records!

I threw out an expensive Thorens turntable and a very expensive Stanton cartridge along with a bunch of vinyl. The best vinyl I replaced with CDs.

There was a period when recording engineers didn't get transferring analog to digital very well. Those CDs were edgy and overly bright. Most stuff today is digital master to CD.

My CD of Pink Floyd's The Wall is one of the best technically dead-on recordings I've heard. Much better than the vinyl it replaced. It must be close to twenty years old and sounds just like the day I bought it.

I appreciate other opinions though. I learn a lot that way.

I'm hoping for 6.x discs to catch on some day. Although people settling for .mp3 files doesn't bode well.

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 23:10:44 GMT
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Here's a nice little booklet about tubes:
A Taste of Tubes

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2012 23:35:15 GMT
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Hi, Looks interesting, I'll read it later.

Too bad about your experience with vinyl. It too has gotten a lot better. With my present system, you probably can't tell by listening whether a CD or LP is playing.

I use one of two turntables a Pro-ject and a vintage Dual 701. Cartridges are main one Dynavector 10X5 with a Soundsmith ruby cantilever, a Grado Reference Platinum I, and back up is a Denon DL110. A Benz Micro is on route now to round them out. They all feed an all tube phono preamp and line stage of my own design (for Oddwatt Audio) driving a pair of KT120 mono blocks, also my design for OWA. The speakers are Martin Logan Vista ESLs, I do use a SS 24 db/octave electronic crossover by Marchand that taps into the speakers and is set for 50 HZ. It drives another pair of my mono blocks with KT88s (the subs are really efficient). For subs I have 15 inchers in 7.5 cubic foot vented cabinets. The F3 on them is 18HZ.

I have not found the CDs to be any better in the bass area than the LPs. Actually a number of the CD remakes as you noted are rather dismal and not only the sound, but overall response are worse than the LPs they are supposed to replace.

Yes, I will agree that if you don't take care of the LPs they will get dinged and the noise level can suffer. That was a huge selling point for CDs. However as much as I like what I have, I fully expect down loaded digital to replace nearly everything in a few years. It is already killing CDs and when everyone catches on to the HQ / Hirez stuff on line, it will be a no brainer for serious audiophiles. Check out the past few issues of Absolute Sound. They have turned a corner and now also support and believe in digital music.

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 00:10:24 GMT
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I remember having a Dual turntable, probably one of the first they ever made. It was awesome compared to the junk available then. I think they had an ad showing the table at a 45 degree angle and still playing. Long time ago.

My plan is to build a server with about 16 terabytes of capacity for video and audio. I didn't realize that high rez music was available. The stuff I'm familiar with is the mp3, wmv, etc. files that people seem content to load onto players that have ear buds. Those files make CDs sound like gold by comparison.

Can you give me a site address that has real high def music?

My thought on video and audio is to rip BR and downloaded files to a server. Why collect a thousand discs and store them when you can have it instantly available at the touch of a button and be able to organize them into a database that can be searched in many ways.

I'll bet we are on a similar path.

Thanks for the conversation.

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 00:19:46 GMT
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Very instructive Wayne.

In the late 50s, I built an Eico pre/power amp. 14 watts per channel! Point to point wiring, low noise tubes, all discrete components. No one was more surprised than I when I turned it on and it worked!

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 00:31:51 GMT
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That's awesome, Floyd!

One of these days, maybe you'll try one of Bruce's tube amp kits. They're still fun to build, and they sound good too. Tubes and high-efficiency speakers are a match made in heaven.

I mean, there are some really good solid state amps out there too. Don't think I'm selling you on tube amps or BluRay/CD players or whatever. I have some good solid state amps that work well for prosound use. I have a good solid-state Harman-Kardon receiver and I've had a few good solid-state Yamaha receivers over the years too. So don't think I'm being dismissive by any means. It's just that a good tube amp is really nice too.

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 04:00:19 GMT
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That might be really fun. It would be something I could actually assemble. I have big hands and old school soldering equipment and tools. Factory electronics have become so small that the tiny wires and connectors and circuitry make misery out of something that used to be fun.

I'm disassembling my Pi speakers so that a wood working shop can laminate them. They will be a dark midnight blue with a high gloss finish.

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 19:11:44 GMT
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Hi, I can actually think of two good reasons to not keep everything in the cloud. One the host goes belly up and files for chapter 11. Also as was pointed out to some folk at last years audio fest in Dallas... bandwidth problems. They were unable to download the stuff in real time. having it stored on a server in your own house is likely a good thing. At least keep a backup copy there. Drive space is now really cheap.

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 19:54:23 GMT
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I think so too. I've heard about a lot of people having trouble streaming video from Netflix and so forth. I also read that Netflix by itself is taking up something like 15% of the internet traffic in peak hours.

When all this streaming drags down the net enough to interfere with normal commerce, the FCC is going to step in and change things.

Wayne says you sell tube amplifier kits. Do you have a web site? You guys have me curious now.

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 20:42:27 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Wed, 08 February 2012 13:11Hi, I can actually think of two good reasons to not keep everything in the cloud. One the host goes belly up and files for chapter 11. Also as was pointed out to some folk at last years audio fest in Dallas... bandwidth problems. They were unable to download the stuff in real time. having it stored on a server in your own house is likely a good thing. At least keep a backup copy there. Drive space is now really cheap.
Why were you thinking about cloud storage verses local storage? What brought that to mind?

FloydV wrote on Wed, 08 February 2012 13:54Wayne says you sell tube amplifier kits. Do you have a web site? You guys have me curious now.OddWatt Audio Forum
OddWatt Audio Website

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 21:06:40 GMT
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Hi, Thanks Wayne for posting the links. OT for sure, but there are several new things not on the web site. Unfortunately about 5 months ago our web master died. We have not yet found a suitable replacement so the site is not updated.

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 21:48:48 GMT
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Something gofar99 wrote. I don't really remember the context anymore.

The main idea I was presenting was to rip discs to a server I want to build. Maybe he was thinking about the servers used by people who sell storage or stream from them to customers.

I think someone was talking about high definition music, much higher than CD quality and I expressed an interest in buying music by download that would be HD quality. The only downloads I had been aware of were mp3 quality, which is horrible.

I didn't realize you could buy high resolution music via the net. I certainly am not interested in streaming music or video. There are too many bugs in that fledgling industry.

Floyd

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players
Posted by [FloydV](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 18:29:05 GMT
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Wayne Parham wrote on Tue, 07 February 2012 17:10
Here's a nice little booklet about tubes:
A Taste of Tubes

Thought you could use a good laugh. Someone at AVS forum put this up:

File Attachments

1) [HoleyStone.jpg](#), downloaded 2263 times

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 03:41:58 GMT

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Hi , It looks like a piece of my driveway. That being the case.... I can probably source about 500 of them for anyone who would like one. If you want Cardas wire with it there is an extra charge of \$400, so a tube version with Cardas wire would be \$699 + 199 + 400. That would be \$1298. Free shipping. A real good deal (at least for me)

Subject: Re: CDs on BluRay and DVD players

Posted by [FloydV](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 04:50:12 GMT

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I'm totally laughing. It's nice to find some humor when you least expect it.

There is a lot of rock in Idaho. High end Pet Audio Rock might be a money maker.

Money for stone. Could be a hit single!
