
Subject: Headphone listening

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Wed, 11 Apr 2012 00:17:43 GMT

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Slowly but surely I'm getting back in the audio swing of things. Situation is such that serious listening is done only late at night using phones. I know binaural listening is almost cult-like in its following, but for the life I can't figure out why. I feel no emotional connection to the music.....none. Currently have Grado 325 cans and a Creek OBH-11 head amp; sources vary but mostly use a Sony HD tuner.....

Subject: Re: Headphone listening

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 11 Apr 2012 01:26:24 GMT

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Yeah, I was always like that too. That plus the fact that even the most expensive headphones always annoyed me to wear. Some are uncomfortable, all make me feel tethered. Even wireless units don't satisfy. I guess I'm just not a headphone guy.

Subject: Re: Headphone listening

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Wed, 11 Apr 2012 01:40:31 GMT

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Hi, I agree. I use phones for cleaning up pops and clicks in digital copies of my LPs, but otherwise have no use for them. The exception is on airplanes - a good mp3 player and good in the ear phones are nearly a must on long trips.

Subject: Re: Headphone listening

Posted by [audioaudio90](#) on Wed, 11 Apr 2012 15:09:39 GMT

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One thing I like about headphones is that I will hear things I don't necessarily hear when listening via speakers. It's also easier to pay attention to panning, for instance. That said, I don't like the tethered feeling either, so I don't use them that often.

Subject: Re: Headphone listening

Posted by [rogerking](#) on Wed, 11 Apr 2012 20:42:29 GMT

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I do not mind them but its not something I could do all of the time and you will never catch me with

'ear buds', those look creepy. I just love hearing something nice and clear, its not too much to ask, right?

Subject: Re: Headphone listening
Posted by [Equinom](#) on Thu, 12 Apr 2012 03:51:00 GMT
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I actually haven't used legitimate head phones for quite some time. For me, they are just too big & bulky. I much prefer the 'ear buds'. They are just more convenient for me.

Subject: Re: Headphone listening
Posted by [Shane](#) on Fri, 13 Apr 2012 21:09:14 GMT
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Have you tried using crossfeed? I personally don't like listening to my head amp rig without a bit of crossfeed. Moves the soundstage forward and down a little for me, instead of making it sound like it's coming to me straight from the side.

Subject: Re: Headphone listening
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Sun, 15 Apr 2012 00:31:36 GMT
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Shane, thanks for reminding me about crossfeed. Totally forgot about it. Found a couple of schematics over at headwize that will be easy to breadboard.....

http://gilmore2.chem.northwestern.edu/projects/showfile.php?file=meier2_prj.htm

Subject: Re: Headphone listening
Posted by [Shane](#) on Sun, 15 Apr 2012 00:42:25 GMT
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colinhester wrote on Sat, 14 April 2012 19:31 Shane, thanks for reminding me about crossfeed. Totally forgot about it. Found a couple of schematics over at headwize that will be easy to breadboard.....

http://gilmore2.chem.northwestern.edu/projects/showfile.php?file=meier2_prj.htm

Colin, here's a link to some DIY xfeed pics of mine. One is for my SOHA it's a Meier lite.

<http://www.rock-grotto.co.uk/x-feed.htm>

I think I adjusted the parts till it suited me IIRC. On my photography page you can see a full blown DIY Meier I did for my first Millet hybrid (Corda Cross clone). Tons of wires, but I never got any interference or RF noise amazingly. Somewhere I have a PCB and front/back plates for the Meier Corda Cross-1. Jan was selling the PCB and plates years ago when he was getting rid of all his old stock. I've just never built it. The full blown version works quite nice though.

http://shanemoorephotography.smugmug.com/Electronics/My-DIY-Equipment/13836992_WrNXqb#!i=1014043591&k=i9GDX

Here's a Corda Cross that was selling a while back. I really need to build that thing!!! L

<http://www.head-fi.org/t/558319/meier-audio-corda-cross-1-crossfeed-unit-brand-new-never-used-now-sold>

Subject: Re: Headphone listening

Posted by [timron](#) on Sun, 15 Apr 2012 07:11:11 GMT

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colinhester wrote on Tue, 10 April 2012 19:17 Slowly but surely I'm getting back in the audio swing of things. Situation is such that serious listening is done only late at night using phones. I know binaural listening is almost cult-like in its following, but for the life I can't figure out why. I feel no emotional connection to the music.....none. Currently have Grado 325 cans and a Creek OBH-11 head amp; sources vary but mostly use a Sony HD tuner.....

I do a lot of my "serious listening" late at night, as well. That's why I love a good pair of headphones, although I'll be the first to admit that they're hard to come by. For almost 10 years, I had an awesome wireless pair that my dad bought for me (Christmas gift) from radio shack. I wish I could remember what brand they were! Anyways, I guess I was a member of the cult, at least until the headphones quit working, haha!

Subject: Re: Headphone listening

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Mon, 16 Apr 2012 02:30:40 GMT

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Hi, Just for grins I might make one.... does anyone have the schematic of both the simple one and the deluxe one?

Subject: Re: Headphone listening
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Mon, 16 Apr 2012 03:24:36 GMT
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Gofar99, look at Shane's link at rock-grotto. Doesn't get much easier than that. Easily built for under \$10

Subject: Re: Headphone listening
Posted by [Shane](#) on Mon, 16 Apr 2012 04:14:32 GMT
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The Lite version will definitely give you a taste of Xfeed, but it doesn't compare to the versatility of the Corda Cross-1. AFAIK, the Corda was the best passive Xfeed made. You can build it p2p like I did, but I think I just lucked out not having to shield everything. I've got the schematics and the layout for the DIY and the manual for the original as well. Probably have a BOM for the PCB version as well somewhere.

Here is how Jan described the Cross-1 that was built into his headamp (same as the stand-alone version of the cross though):

In principle, digital soundprocessors can simulate all the mechanisms for directional listening but the results are, thus far, not very satisfactory. In particular, pinnae-reflections are very complex and listener-specific and impossible to simulate accurately.

Fortunately, the mean directional information is provided by the time delay and level of attenuation of the sounds that reaches the opposite ear. The CORDA HEADAMP can electronically simulate this process and, with appropriate attenuation and delay, add some of the right audiosignal to the left channel and vice -versa. This considerably reduces the adverse symptoms of headphone listening.

A unique feature of the crossfeed circuitry of the CORDA HEADAMP is that it "recognizes" the virtual positions of the instruments and singers in a recording. The sound of an instrument in the middle of the soundstage will be equally present in both audio-channels and isn't given any crossfeed. A crossfeed signal is only generated for instruments that are not placed at the center. The more off-center the instrument is placed, the stronger the crossfeed and the longer its delay. This feature is called "natural crossfeed".

Subject: Re: Headphone listening
Posted by [Miami](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2012 03:42:46 GMT
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I'm not much for headphones either. Even back in the day when all you could get were the large padded ones, it just didn't sound the same. The music didn't feel "free" somehow.

Subject: Re: Headphone listening
Posted by [Shane](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2012 19:48:30 GMT
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Miami wrote on Wed, 18 April 2012 22:42I'm not much for headphones either. Even back in the day when all you could get were the large padded ones, it just didn't sound the same. The music didn't feel "free" somehow.

That's mostly because the headphone out on most gear was an afterthought, not the design priority. Some of the best headphones still are the large padded ones. Headphone listening has come a very long way IMO. Check out Head-Fi to see for yourself.
