
Subject: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Sat, 28 Jul 2012 17:57:51 GMT

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Well I am about a month away from sound heaven. I ordered 4pi (upgraded with JBLs), 2pis, and 3pi subs about 5-6 months ago. My cabinet maker is currently making the boxes and speaker stands. He is veneering the boxes with oak and making the stands out of solid oak. I decided to stain with the color "Early American" and use a gloss varnish. I cannot wait to find out how everything is going to look and most importantly sound. (Anyone in Chicago have 4pis?)

I am going to use this thread to ask questions as I proceed with the build. My first question is how do you attach the R13 insulation? I am thinking spray glue but I am up for different ideas based on others success.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 28 Jul 2012 18:00:42 GMT

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I run a bead of white glue on the surface to be covered with R13. Spray adhesive is probably much easier.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [roberts4152](#) on Sat, 28 Jul 2012 21:11:43 GMT

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Don't have them yet, but also thinking about getting 4pi's in Chicago. Would you mind telling me who your cabinet maker is? Thanks.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Fri, 10 Aug 2012 15:11:50 GMT

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here is his contact info

<http://crr.vendordiscovery.com/categories/323>

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Fri, 10 Aug 2012 15:13:20 GMT

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Here are some updated pictures of the build

File Attachments

- 1) [IMG_3284.jpg](#), downloaded 5915 times
 - 2) [IMG_6209.jpg](#), downloaded 6003 times
 - 3) [IMG_2858.jpg](#), downloaded 5869 times
 - 4) [IMG_8328.jpg](#), downloaded 6065 times
 - 5) [IMG_4592.jpg](#), downloaded 6031 times
-

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 10 Aug 2012 16:57:28 GMT

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Nice!

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Sun, 12 Aug 2012 00:50:37 GMT

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Most updated. Components are all fitted. Now time to stain and varnish and install internal components.

File Attachments

- 1) [IMG_5046.jpg](#), downloaded 5755 times
 - 2) [IMG_4010.jpg](#), downloaded 5888 times
 - 3) [IMG_7723.jpg](#), downloaded 5710 times
-

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 12 Aug 2012 01:43:02 GMT

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Oh, very good. Looks excellent!

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Sun, 12 Aug 2012 09:54:25 GMT

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Thanks Wayne. I am very excited.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [mantha3](#) on Mon, 13 Aug 2012 17:24:05 GMT

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Looks like a hell of a system!

What kind of wood are you building the 4Pis with? From the 4PI photo it looks like MDF but I thought I saw a ply or two of ply?

ARe you going to pull the driver out before you stain? I would pull all the stuff out.. woofers, horns, etc and then stain and do the varnish.

4Pis up front. 2 Pis in the rear and then the two 3 PI subs?

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Mon, 13 Aug 2012 17:55:13 GMT

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Yes, I pulled out all of the components and I start staining today. The speakers are made out of MDF as called for by Wayne's design. The plywood you see is for extra support because the

Woofers and Horns are recessed to lay flush against the speaker.

You are also correct on the system. 4pi's with upgraded compression driver and woofer. Dual 3pi subs (Although I will not be able to flank the subs due to space issues and will need to use the subs as stands, no other option) and 2pi's in the rear.

I am running dual mono blocks from emotiva and an xpa-5 for my surround (three more channels if I ever decide on 7.2)

<http://shop.emotiva.com/collections/amplifiers/products/xpa1>

<http://shop.emotiva.com/collections/amplifiers/products/xpa5>

I decided to NOT make the subs passive. I bought 500 watt plate amps for the subs (due to space reasons).

<http://www.parts-express.com/pe/showdetl.cfm?Partnumber=300-752>

I am running emotiva's pre-amp UMC-1

<http://shop.emotiva.com/collections/processors/products/umc1>

and everything is playing through my desktop computer with an upgraded sound card.

http://www.asus.com/Multimedia/Audio_Cards/Xonar_Essence_STX/

I live in a condo in North-Side Chicago. Let's hope I do not get evicted after this system is completed. When everything is done I will post pictures and video. I am very excited to hear how this is going to sound. I have never heard any pi speakers and am just going off the idea that Wayne's brilliant mind created some amazing speakers.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [roberts4152](#) on Mon, 13 Aug 2012 18:25:04 GMT

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Thanks much - looking good so far! Hope you enjoy them.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [zheka](#) on Mon, 13 Aug 2012 21:54:56 GMT

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these look great!

I also live in Chicago area and working on a 4Pi project. It would be interesting to get together one day to compare the notes.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2012 11:15:11 GMT

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I am down I would love to compared notes and talk music with someone. I am only 27 and when I go into high end audio stores I can't even get the time of day (so annoying). What suburb do you live in?

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [mantha3](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2012 13:09:52 GMT
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Yup, that will be an unreal system for sure. Lots of wattage! Be careful with the volume knob when this is all hooked up!

One thing I have that you may think about.

I have Cable TV with a Digital package. I've had dish too. The converter boxes suck (IMHO). I got a Decware ZSTAGE for about \$600 that you can buy with a balanced attenuator. This works as a buffer to help push the signal from the weak converter and you have a little boost should you want to get a bit stronger signal by using the attenuator. The ZSTAGE runs a 12au7 tube. This is basically the type of output stage you wish they had in these boxes. You might like the tube up front on the way into the system to warm things up... Or not.

Just a thought as you have everything you need.

Keep us posted on what you think in the end.

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [zheka](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2012 14:02:52 GMT
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blacklabel0730 wrote on Tue, 14 August 2012 06:15I am down I would love to compared notes and talk music with someone. I am only 27 and when I go into high end audio stores I can't even get the time of day (so annoying). What suburb do you live in?

I am in Northbrook.

I agree that most high end audio stores suck. There is one happy exception I know of, and it's not far from where you are - Van L Speakerworks. It is a small store front on Western Avenue just south of Peterson on the north side.

<http://www.vanlspeakerworks.com/contact.htm>

John, the owner, is an amazing guy, not pretentious at all. The speakers he builds are actually pretty good IMHO though there is a lot of competition at the price range.

When I first met him I just moved here and could hardly speak any English (not that it changed

much, but nevertheless). Even though it was obvious I am not in a position to buy anything, he would let me spend hours listening to music in his showroom.

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Fri, 17 Aug 2012 11:36:46 GMT
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Here are the stands for the speakers (made from solid white oak). I liked Wayne's stands so I just copied the design.

File Attachments

1) [IMG_0137.jpg](#), downloaded 5034 times

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Fri, 17 Aug 2012 11:41:18 GMT
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Wayne,

I know that you can't paint the insulation but I do not like how the insulation shows in the ports of the 4pi's (right speaker in the picture attached). My question is could I buy grill cloth (<http://www.parts-express.com/pe/showdetl.cfm?Partnumber=260-335>) and just attach it to the back the air port before I install the insulation?

File Attachments

1) [Pi_Speakers_03.jpeg](#), downloaded 5076 times

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [steve f](#) on Fri, 17 Aug 2012 22:16:48 GMT
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Hi fellow Chicagoans,

Don't cover the port. You may get screwed up response. Just shoot a bit (not a lot) of flat black paint into the port instead.

Steve

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 18 Aug 2012 00:20:02 GMT
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Agreed. I've done that on some speakers with dark wood, where the contrast was really stark.

flash from the camera lit it up just right to make the contrast seem more striking. In normal lighting, the port is deep enough no direct light reaches the insulation so it appears much darker.

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Sat, 18 Aug 2012 11:14:54 GMT
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Thanks for the response. These are the reasons why I ask questions here before I purchase or do anything.

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Mon, 20 Aug 2012 18:42:30 GMT
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"Early American" stain

File Attachments

1) [4pi.jpg](#), downloaded 3482 times

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 20 Aug 2012 20:47:53 GMT
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Looks great!

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [NWCgrad](#) on Sat, 25 Aug 2012 02:49:58 GMT

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Very nice! I need to veneer and stain my speakers.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Fri, 31 Aug 2012 16:52:14 GMT

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I am finishing the 4pi's (and stands) this weekend. Any wiring suggestions or tips before I start?

I have the stock 4pi crossover with upgraded JBL 2226h and de250

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Fri, 31 Aug 2012 17:00:57 GMT

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My amp stand is complete and I made 2 posters (20x30) on photoshop for above the 4pis (my and my wife's favorite bands). Oak Frames for the posters come this week to match the speakers.

File Attachments

- 1) [amp stand.jpg](#), downloaded 3346 times
 - 2) [poster 1.jpg](#), downloaded 3340 times
 - 3) [poster 2.jpg](#), downloaded 3339 times
-

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 31 Aug 2012 18:30:43 GMT

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That amp rack looks really nice. Those posters are cool too - will really look good framed!

As for wiring, I like to mount the crossover to the inside bottom panel of the speaker cabinet, and run the wiring up through the insulation. Leave enough slack to make it easy to connect the drivers but not so much there's a lot of wire dangling inside. Insulation will keep it from vibrating, even if there were enough it was coiled up inside but I still like to use just enough to reach, and no more. Use good quality pure copper stranded 14 or 16 guage speaker wire.

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Sun, 02 Sep 2012 03:24:49 GMT
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Well I finished the 4pi's (Still need to add the pi decals). I will be hooking them up tomorrow when I get back to my condo. Here is a picture of how they look.

File Attachments

1) [2012-09-01_19-54-46_861.jpg](#), downloaded 3231 times

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [mantha3](#) on Sun, 02 Sep 2012 13:38:42 GMT
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Nice!

Well done. Give them some run in with some loud music to break in and then report back on how things sound.

Thanks for posting!

Andy

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 02 Sep 2012 14:32:58 GMT
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Very nice looking. I love the look of the veneered port, don't you?

Subject: Re: A month away
Posted by [NWCgrad](#) on Sun, 02 Sep 2012 15:56:06 GMT
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Those look great!!!

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Sun, 02 Sep 2012 16:18:32 GMT

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I do love the look of the veneered port. I finally have them hooked up and WOW they sound absolutely amazing. The subs and the 2pi's should be done in the next 3-4 weeks.

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [skywave-rider](#) on Sun, 02 Sep 2012 18:22:10 GMT

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Beautiful!

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 15:10:30 GMT

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The setup is kinda stuck due to living in a condo in Chicago. I am limited to space living in a condo in Chicago. I used the subs for stands and angled the speakers toe in and put the rears on the 4pi stands. This is temporary as when I buy a condo (next year or 2) I will make sure everything fits in our entertainment area.

The sound is amazing. I am blown away at the clarity and separation this setup puts out. It has more than enough power to get loud but it doesn't seem to lose anything in fact, to me, it sounds better. The bass is more punchy and noticeable (in a musical way).

I will do a full review of everything soon. I want to thank Wayne for helping answer and question as well as designing such a high quality speaker.

File Attachments

- 1) [rear.jpg](#), downloaded 2478 times
 - 2) [side.jpg](#), downloaded 2555 times
 - 3) [front shot.jpg](#), downloaded 2576 times
-

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [mantha3](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 15:25:34 GMT

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It looks like you have your winter all set to go! Cold night you can get a fire going and chill to some 4PI tune-age

Subject: Re: A month away

Posted by [blacklabel0730](#) on Sat, 27 Oct 2012 01:01:10 GMT

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Well everything has been done for about 4 weeks and all I can say is WOW. If you are looking for clear quality sound at concert volumes go with Pi speakers. I am running the 4pi as the mains, dual 3 pi subs, and 2pi for rear surround.

The four pi speakers are the main sound for my setup. With their sensitivity these speakers do not strain at high volumes it is amazing. They just keep sounding better the louder you play them. I upgraded both the tweeter and woofer to B&C DE250 and the JBL 2226h . I love how clear and separated the instruments sound and I love the range these have but I really enjoy the soundstage of the 4pi. Watching concert dvds is a real pleasure it feels like I am at a live show.

The 2pis for rears are great. In movies I notice they put out a lot of bass without breaking up at all. It adds a big feel to movies during loud scenes. When using them for 5.1 albums I really appreciate how they are not the weak link in the chain. They put out enough clear sound to be the perfect compliment to the 4pi's (note I have not tried playing them as fronts yet).

The 3pi subs are awesome. Sometimes I have to walk up to them to make sure they are putting out bass because they are so clear and mix with the 4 pi so well (running them at 100 hz crossover). The biggest impression they left on me has been in movies. During explosion scenes your hair vibrates and the room pressurizes, but you can barely hear the bass. It is one of the coolest things about the system.

Overall I could not be happier. I find myself constantly playing music and relistening to all of my favorite albums. It is amazing hearing new things in some of my favorite songs with how much instrument separation these 4pis produce. I can now finally sit back and enjoy them. I am throwing a dinner theater holiday party in Dec. and I will make sure everyone knows about Pi Speakers!

Thanks Wayne and Thanks Tim Kroupa from Mirror Image Remodeling for doing my cabinets.
