
Subject: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Sun, 25 Nov 2012 12:00:07 GMT

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I'll of course use multiple subwoofers for a setup with 4pi's but the question is, how good are the 4Pi speakers? Can they compete with the very best out there?

I prefer effortless and dynamic reproduction over everything else.

The best speakers I've heard till this day is the Avantgarde Omega Duo G2 - awesome effortless and dynamic. Will 4Pi compete?

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 25 Nov 2012 16:47:53 GMT

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I'll not comment subjectively, but I will tell you two things:

1. If I could find anything else out there I liked better, I would have bought them. It would be much cheaper than all the development time and money I've spent. I could have bought the most expensive Avantgardes in every color they make and still not put a dent in the budget compared to what I've spent developing my speakers over the years. Some of my expenses include measurement equipment, injection molds, CNC machines, etc. So consider whether or not it would be worth all the bother if there were other speakers out there that were in the same league as mine.

2. In 2000 and before, there were no other hifi "waveguide" speakers on the market. By 2005, you started seeing some Pi clones and loudspeakers of this type started being made by other manufacturers. Now they are very popular, maybe the most popular type of high end loudspeaker. I won't even begin to mention all the brands out there that are virtual copies of Pi Speakers, but there are a lot. Some tip their hat to me, others try and act like they did their development on their own. But all speakers of this type borrow design philosophies from Pi Speakers. Ours is truly the archetype of this loudspeaker paradigm, one that is considered to be the most accurate and least distorted by many experts in the field.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Sun, 25 Nov 2012 17:05:19 GMT

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Thanks!

While the Avantgardes are very good they're out of my budget...

Any Pi speakers in Denmark?

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 25 Nov 2012 17:08:52 GMT

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Most of my customers in Europe buy crossovers and waveguides from us and then source the drivers locally. Hopefully some Pi Speakers owners near you will write here or PM you.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Sun, 25 Nov 2012 17:25:43 GMT

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Great, thank you for your help.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Nick77](#) on Sun, 25 Nov 2012 21:39:16 GMT

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Nelson check out my thread from a few weeks ago, might also give a little insight.

<http://audioroundtable.com/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=17889>

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 26 Nov 2012 22:07:43 GMT

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Here are a few more links:

Read What Others Are Saying (customer reviews)

Three 4Pi's in Basic Black for Home Theater Build Thread (BigmouthinDC)

4Pi Speakers at NJCU sound lab (skywave-rider)

4Pi Dinner Theater Update (dutchswan0311)

4Pi Home Theater Build (NWCgrad)

4Pi Design Questions (Nichol1997)

4Pi measurements (zheka)

a month away (blacklabel0730)There are a lot more threads like these describing the build process, setup and sound quality of these speakers in this forum. This is just a few I saw doing a quick scan of the first few pages.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Sun, 02 Dec 2012 17:43:29 GMT

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Hi Wayne,

You are very generous audiophile and I've the deepest respect for the time you spend supporting your (potential) customers and audio freaks in general. That alone calls for I need to own a pair of Pi Speakers!!

I've to correct myself regarding the Avantgarde horns I've heard, it was the Duo Primo G2 and not Omega Duo G2 as mentioned above.

The Primo was really perfect from ca. 200 Hz and up and if the 4 or 7 Pi Speakers reach that kind of effortless and dynamic sound reproduction I'll be in heaven!!

The amp connected to the Primo was the mighty Kondo On Gaku.

My plan is to start with 4Pi with flanking subs (based on servo woofers and amps from Rythmikaudio) and later when moving to the right house upgrading to 7Pi.

Thanks for your help Wayne and thanks to the forum members as well.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Thu, 30 May 2013 15:00:19 GMT

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Hi Wayne,

I've built the flanking subs of your design (3pi subs) but yet have to take them into service. I'm building the 4pi as well and bought your waveguides but haven't bought the drivers yet. Consider the crossovers assembled.

I've been following the 'beyond the ariel' thread over at diyaudio by Lynn Olson and lately read this:

"Tonality and resolution at low levels was one of the big differences between the JBL 2226 and the GPA 416-Alnico. The JBL sounded flat and dull, while the 416-Alnico had the trademark

Alnico sparkle to the sound, and most noticeably at low levels. If you want to hear the difference between magnet materials, and overhung vs underhung voice coils, low-level listening is where it is most apparent."

I'm a little worried about the JBL2226 after reading this. What I really liked about the Avantgarde horn systems was its ability to sound natural and effortless no matter what the sound level was set at.

So how bad is the claim stated by Lynn?

I really don't want to listen at 95dB or more to enjoy my music...

Can I substitute with the 2226H with GPA416-16 Ohm? I of course have to make changes in the filter.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 30 May 2013 18:04:43 GMT
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I like Lynn and would consider him to be a friend. But I don't agree with him in this, not even a little bit. I completely disagree and find the JBL 2226H to be the better midwoofer.

In fact, there is another boutique company like GPA that I used to work with until recently, when QC became an issue. I was always concerned with consistency and build quality from these smaller job shops. I'll probably never consider using drivers from a smaller boutique job shop again as a result.

As for the differences in magnet materials, read this:
Motor Structures

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Thu, 30 May 2013 18:32:49 GMT
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Hi Wayne,

Thank you for replying.

4pi has evolved over the years and Lynn's coming loudspeakers will most likely have a maturity period ahead.

I'll stick to your proven design which has a myriad of satisfied users. Furthermore, I am sure to be able to procure a JBL driver in the future!

Best regards

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Sun, 16 Jun 2013 12:19:28 GMT
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Drivers are in house (DE250+JBL), cross overs nearly finished and so are the cabinets. Soon, very soon...

File Attachments

1) [4pi crossover.jpg](#), downloaded 6653 times

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 16 Jun 2013 16:05:29 GMT
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Very nice looking crossover! Getting closer...

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Matts](#) on Tue, 18 Jun 2013 23:16:49 GMT
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Nelson, you made the right choice. JBL 2226 in this app is totally fine, and the DE250 is smooth as can be. I've got a homemade xover, too. It can be fun to play with later after they break in, if you feel the need.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Mon, 24 Jun 2013 19:54:17 GMT
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First speaker assembled, loaded with a crossover and drivers. Listening in mono... and... promising!

I f....d up one front panel and have to make a new one on sunday...
More to come when both speakers are up and running and dialed in.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Tue, 02 Jul 2013 22:48:05 GMT
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Actualyly the 4pi is a very great loudspeaker!

The second loudspeaker was finished Sunday and I've been listening in stereo ever since. Lovely effortless and very dynamic sound reproduction. The 4pi throw a huge lifelike soundstage.

More to come when the 4pi's are fully broken in.

Best regards

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 02 Jul 2013 23:48:13 GMT
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Glad you got 'em done. Any pics?

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Wed, 03 Jul 2013 15:34:47 GMT
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As the 4pi are going to stay in my system I will finish them attaching speaker terminals, wrap the cabinet with self adhesive vinyl film (wood style) and attach a removable front grill to protect the drivers when the kids are around.

Only the front, back panels and the port are made with black MDF, the rest is made using ordinary MDF. I really like the finish of black MDF and regret that I did not use it for all panels. So the stander for the 4pi will be made up of black MDF only and no further finishing.

The 3pi subwoofers will be taken into service soon (also need a front grill for protection.)

The speaker to the right is one of two Dali 310 loudspeakers and they only serve as backup and test speakers.

(Sorry for all the noise in the photo)

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 03 Jul 2013 17:15:15 GMT
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I like the looks of them in black too. Lot's of home theater guys do that, and it's really attractive. I've done 'em in black using paint (buffed smooth), Duratex and even a formica veneer. Each has a slightly different texture, and all look good. Black is a classic finish.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [justphil](#) on Thu, 04 Jul 2013 13:11:54 GMT
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Someday I would just love to have a set of these.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Thu, 04 Jul 2013 14:10:41 GMT
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Back in 2010 I was sceptical and avoided to build the 4pi back then. Lots of excuses like to expensive drivers, too ugly, too boxy design... Instead I went another route and built 3 other pairs of speakers (two Decware using DFR8 and DTQWT MKII designed by Troels Gravesen.)

The best thing about the Decware speakers were their price - cheap. The second best thing was I did not loose that much money when I sold them...

The DTQWT are super great loudspeakers. Smooth, detailed and dynamic. Compared to 4pi the DTQWT are lacking some details, dynamics and the superb coverage of the room that the 4pi excels at. But still the DTQWT are great loudspeakers that compete with lots of so called high end loudspeakers regardless the cost. To my ears what the DTQWT are great at the 4pi just do better. A 15" driver can move more air with lower distortion than a 8" driver. It's physics.

I regret that I did not built the 4pi in the first place but at the time I disliked the 4pi design. How could such an ugly speaker ever be able to reproduce music true to life? But what the 4pi don't have in sex appeal is forgiven when they play music!

The 4pi are truly great - highly recommended!

Next project is to find a house where I can have a pair of 7pi cornhorns! I'm a fan of Pi Speakers now!

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 04 Jul 2013 16:55:53 GMT

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Glad to hear it, Nelson. Thanks for making this build thread, and for your comments on the sound.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [myOx](#) on Fri, 05 Jul 2013 14:19:19 GMT

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Nelson,

Looking forward to listening impressions after you've had a chance to really listen in to the 4pi's. Curious about which Decware speakers you built in the past. You can take a look at my recent 4pi build thread and see the HDT's I built and have enjoyed for many years

Matt

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Fri, 05 Jul 2013 14:45:12 GMT

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I'll report more listening impressions later when the 3pi subs are up and running and dialed in.

I built the Decware HDT and ZOB and was very disappointed with both designs. My intention was to combine those speakers as mentioned by Steve in his white papers but never came around it as the HDT did not provide the bass response I wanted.

And I can't stand the distorted sound from most full range drivers when braking up... Useless IME.

I look forward to read about your impression of the 4pi when finished.

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?

Posted by [Nelson Bass](#) on Wed, 31 Jul 2013 07:43:05 GMT

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An important update (for me at least) on my 4pi speakers regarding finish:

File Attachments

1) [4pi.jpg](#), downloaded 4594 times

Subject: Re: 4Pi How good are they actually?
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 31 Jul 2013 13:27:39 GMT
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I like that nice clean look!
