Subject: DIY Digital Amp Kits
Posted by GarMan on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 20:01:23 GMT
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I've been waiting for something like this to come to market and it's available now in Europe. Even with shipping, it still seems reasonable. Hopefully we'll see something like in N.Amer by the end of this year.gar.
http://audioroundtable.com/BillFitzmaurice/messages/9049.html

Subject: 41 Hz Audio Amp 6
Posted by FredT on Tue, 18 Oct 2005 21:20:21 GMT
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I completed one today and it sounds surprisingly good on the test stand with no upgrades. The Amp 6 is almost identical to the Amp 3 except that it uses through-hole mounted (instead of surface mount) components, making it much easier to build. I don't plan to sell my SET monoblocks just yet, but for $39 plus $11 air freight it's a good project for anyone wanting to sling some solder. It's complete with power supply on the board, except it doesn't include the power transformer - I'm using a 12.6 volt Radio Shack. I ordered a Hammond chassis plus RCA's, speaker terminals, IEC connector, etc, and will build it into the case when it arrives.
Amp 6

Subject: Re: 41 Hz Audio Amp 6
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 18 Oct 2005 21:22:20 GMT
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I remember hearing about 41 Hz and thinking it was an unusual name. It's a digital amp, isn't it?

Subject: Re: 41 Hz Audio Amp 6
Posted by FredT on Tue, 18 Oct 2005 23:02:21 GMT
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Yes, it uses the Tripath 2020 chip - 25W into 4 ohms, 12 W into 8, but those are optimistic ratings because it's distortion characteristics are much like a SET amp. More realistic ratings for under 1% distortion are 15W and 8W. With less than two hours playing time it's too early to evaluate, but it seems to have a nice clear, but slightly bright/siblant sound. I plan to replace the cheap electrolytic input caps with Northcreeks when I install it in the case, which along with some breakin

time should help tame the brightness. It should be perfect for driving the 3 Pi Theaters by the time the GPAF rolls around.

Subject: Re: 41 Hz Audio Amp 6
Posted by FredT on Wed, 26 Oct 2005 13:39:08 GMT
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I finally completed it last night using a 15 volt, 50VA toroid transformer from Digikey, Zen coupling caps from Northcreek Music, and all the other parts from Parts Express. At first it sounded a bit bright and lacked dimensionality, but those characteristics have disappeared with some break in time. In fact, I was comparing it to a Parasound HCA-1000A Ss amp and a pair of Bottlehead Paramour 2A3 tube SET amps this morning and found the sound of the Amp 6 is somewhere in between the other two. I'm very happy with the sound of this little amp.
Completed Amp 6

Subject: Re: 41 Hz Audio Amp 6
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 26 Oct 2005 15:58:58 GMT
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How would you compare the bass of the T-Amp? Is it tight like other SS amps? I wonder if the T-Amp would make a nice bass amp to pair with a low-power SET for the mid/treble in a bi-amp setup.

Subject: Bi-Amping
Posted by FredT on Wed, 26 Oct 2005 20:00:16 GMT
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The bass is more SS-like than tube-like. It has really good synergy with the 3 Pi Theater Speakers and, because of their high sensitivity, can drive them to room filling levels. I have a passive attenuator I can use to match its level to the Paramours and will try it with the Amp 6 driving the Delta 12LF's and the Paramours driving the Eminence horns. I'll let you know how it sounds.

Subject: Re: Bi-Amping
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 26 Oct 2005 22:10:35 GMT
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I'd really like to hear that setup on the sevens too, because the woofer is crossed over lower and there is more of the mids that could be covered by the SET.

Subject: Re: Bi-Amping
Posted by FredT on Thu, 27 Oct 2005 11:13:04 GMT
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You're right. With a two way speaker like the 3 Pi crossed over at 1.6khz, and the SET driving the tweeter, you're not going to hear that magic SET midrange because it's handled by the SS-driven woofer. Too bad I don't have any three way speakers to test it with.

Subject: Re: Bi-Amping
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 27 Oct 2005 12:34:13 GMT
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And even as a three-way, I'd rather that the midrange be crossed over pretty low - lower than most - 'cause a lot of 'em crossover pretty high in the midrange, even an octave above middle C. I've always tended to try and avoid crossover in that range, either well above or well below but not smack dab in the midrange.

Subject: Re: 41 Hz Audio Amp 6
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 07 Nov 2005 03:07:16 GMT
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Say Fred; Whats different about this amp compared to the Sonic-T if I may ask? After listening to the ST vs the Brian Bell Chip amp I kinda like the chip; but that might be due to better passive parts in the Chip amp. What does this amp do circuit wise?

Subject: Re: 41 Hz Audio Amp 6
Posted by FredT on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 20:41:47 GMT
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I don't know what all the circuit difference are because I'm not familiar with the non-Tripath parts in

the Sonic T. But the parts that are used in the Amp 6 are generally of good quality and I substituted Northcreeks for the stock electrolytic input coupling caps in mine. The bottom line is that the Amp 6 lets me hear into the soundstage in much the same way that my Bottlehead Paramours do. A few days ago I substituted my Parasound HCA-1000A for the Amp 6 and very quickly returned the Amp 6 to the system - the Parasound seemed two dimensional in comparison. But I don't want to oversell this little amp. It's not as good as my other SET tube amps, but for about $100 total it's a hell of a value if you have efficient speakers like my Pi 3's to drive with it.