Subject: SET 45
Posted by akhilesh on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 00:42:17 GMT
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Hi everyone, I bought a SET 45 on the web, used. It is awesome! I love the way the tube renders the sound. It has decent parts (james output trannies, good coupling caps). Anyone else here ever heard one of these? What do you all think?thanx-akhilesh

Subject: Re: SET 45
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 02:57:38 GMT
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Lots of people swear by those 45's. I've heard some that I thought were terrible, and I'm not sure why. A single 45 can't provide a lot of power, but it should sound good if used right. But I've heard a few 45 amps that were pretty unflattering to the tube, to say the least.Your amp sounds great. It sounds to me the way an amp should sound, so I'm giving it the nod for sure!I think that there is something to be said of the active element chosen, but maybe even more by the configuration its used in. Your amp uses the 45 in a configuration that works very well. I know there are some that would say it's the 45 tube that does it. But I think it's the circuit your builder put it in as much as anything else.You owned a lot of tube amps, and heard even more. What do you think?

Subject: Totally agree Wayne: it's the overall circuit that matters plus the parts. NT
Posted by akhilesh on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 11:17:32 GMT
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nt

Subject: Re: SET 45
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 22:43:59 GMT
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Hi AK; Heard the Korneff 45 a while ago and posted on the PI forumn. As I recall there was quite a bit of discussion concerning that amp at the time so you might want to check the archives. It worked very well with Altec's of exceptional efficiency. They seem to be going for reasonable prices now and I assume that is due to their ultra-low power output. I personally would be interested in your opinion of the amp and if at all possible the design and implementation of the

circuit. May I ask is this purchase a result of your ongoing experiments with single driver systems?
The 45 seemed to me at the time to be very sensitive to which speakers were used. Even amongst the more efficient speaks there was an obvious connection when they agreed with each other.(I mean the amp and speaks!)

Subject: Re: SET 45
Posted by akhilesh on Tue, 13 Jul 2004 13:16:54 GMT
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HI John,Mine uses the 417a input tube capactively coupled to a 45. I thnk Gordon Rankin (wavelength) uses the same circuit in his ultimate 45 amps. The amp i got also has decent quality parts (not silver wired trannies or anything but good stuff). IN a nutshell: james output trannies (considered to be sleepers in the same league as the big boys like tamura) , stancor NOS power tranny (good ole usa), blackgate, panasonic & nichicon caps in the power, jupiter beeswax caps in the coupling, good quality resistors (mills, allen bradley & holco). Why did i buy it?Given my speakers (97 db & 104 db eff resp), i realized i was not really going over a watt or two. SO i looked around for the best first watt amp i could find (and afford). AS paul klipsch said, it's the first watt that counts, right? I read a lot about the resolving power of the 45, and this amp came up for sale online, so i bought it. It is very nice. I like the way the amp resolves the music. It's probably a little more distorted than, say, my zen amp, but i LIKE the way it distorts...in fact i can't even tell if it distorts. It just sounds more clear and realistic to me than any other amp i own. Voices and instruments sound very well rendered. It works very well with my homebrewed trusonic 80FR setup (wide range driver with tweeter at 15K and compensation network), and also wiith the klipschorns. But, yeah, it really needs at least 96 db speakers. ALso, my homebrewed setup was tuned for the zen amp (the compensation network i mean) which some people consider to be a bit weak in bass. WEll, all i can say is the 45 works very well with both my speaker pairs (to my ears). IF you have a nice set of horns or very efficient speakers, a 45 amp should work. it may also work with a PURE single driver setup, but there may be problems...since most pure single driver setups are compromised in terms of frequency range. I think one would need a pretty decent horn loaded single driver setup to really appreciate a 45 amp. Another option (i think most people use it this way) is use it in a biamped setup. SO, in a nutshell, you ar eright: i can see this amp being very sensitive to speakers. That's probably why they are cheaper than the 300Bs. One website to read may be Gordon Rankin's website at wavelength audio. He gives his opinions on the different tubes (300B versus 2a3 versus 45). thanx-akhilesh

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Subject: Commercial speakers that would work well with a 45 SEt
Posted by akhilesh on Tue, 13 Jul 2004 13:21:53 GMT
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I heard Wayne Parham's 3 way horn setup last saturday (www.pispeakers.com. I was very impressed. These should work well aith a 45. So will a pair of klipschorns and some of the other

older klipsch speakers. According to wavelength audio, horn loaded lowthers work well as well, though I have never heard a lowther in any box. thanx-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: Totally agree Wayne: it's the overall circuit that matters plus the parts. NT
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 13 Jul 2004 17:44:53 GMT
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AK, This makes how many amps you have owned since last year? You are the guy I am going to for anecdotal impressions from now on! I need to get some pics of the 211 amp project I am still contemplating and send them to you, I think you will appreciate that amp. 20 watts of triode SE power with mercury vapor rectifiers and vanishingly low 2nd order distortion.

Subject: Re: Totally agree Wayne: it's the overall circuit that matters plus the parts. NT
Posted by akhilesh on Tue, 13 Jul 2004 18:28:05 GMT
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Sounds cooL! Would love to see the project pics. Yeah i have been going overboard on amps....no MORE!:-)-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: Totally agree Wayne: it's the overall circuit that matters plus the parts. NT
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 13 Jul 2004 20:25:56 GMT
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No More; HMMM< I've heard that before!

Subject: Re: Totally agree Wayne: it's the overall circuit that matters plus the parts. NT
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 13 Jul 2004 22:29:52 GMT
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Subject: 417A>45 SET in the works
Posted by billfort on Thu, 15 Jul 2004 11:51:42 GMT
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Well, this is encouraging akhilesh! I'm currently building a 45 SET and had some reservations as to whether I'd be happy with the low power on my 100db eff. Altec 604's. I may end up trying the 45 in a bi-amp configuration with my existing 300B SET on the 15" Altec woofers, I really like the bass with this combination.The amp I'm building is VERY similar to yours – 417A driver, cap coupled (Jupiter beeswax), all James iron, Blackgate and Elna Cerafine caps, Mills, Riken, Tantalum and Caddock resistors, WE copper wire and Cardas unplated copper binding posts. All tubes will have AC heat but I'll use humpots on the 45's as I hear this adds more flexibility for tube swapping. The chassis will be punched stainless steel and SA Mahogany, similar to my first DIY 300B SET. So far I've rounded up Western and Northern Electric 417A, Raytheon 5842 and ST 45, RCA UX245 and a few NOS 5U4G and GT rectifier tubes to try. I've added Riken shunted ALPS blue velvet level pots for each channel so I can use these to attenuate the 604 horns when trying passive line-level crossovers. I'll post a picture when I get a little further along on assembly.Bill

Subject: Re: 417A>45 SET in the works
Posted by akhilesh on Thu, 15 Jul 2004 14:11:15 GMT
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HI Bill,Do keep us posted as you build. You certainly have all the good ingredients! You may not need to biamp. I get very good bass on mine (enough for me at least). Unless you have differnt drivers which need biamping. thanx-akhilesh

Subject: making a little progress on my 45...
Posted by billfort on Tue, 27 Jul 2004 19:14:49 GMT
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I got the chassis finished and I'm starting on the wiring now on my 417A>45 SET. I spent a bunch of time in CAD designing this thing so assembly has gone pretty smoothly so far, no surprises. The tube sockets are in rubber mounted sub assemblies and I've used Audionote gold plated knobs to finish off the level pots, humpots and the front mounted rotary on/off switch. The stainless is brush finish and the mahogany finished in Watco natural Danish oil and paste wax wet sanded in up through #800 grit.

Subject: Absolutely gorgeous!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 27 Jul 2004 20:56:38 GMT
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That's really stunning. I heard Akhilesh's 45 amp, and it also uses James iron and all the other similarities that you and he already discussed. So I think I have a feel for how it sounds, especially nice with your fine Altec components. I'm also impressed with the care you have taken to give your amplifier such beautiful aesthetic appeal. I'll bet your speaker cabinets must also be just as nice. Impressive!

Subject: Re: Totally agree Wayne: it's the overall circuit that matters plus the parts. NT
Posted by Vijay on Tue, 27 Jul 2004 21:55:30 GMT
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LOL

Subject: Re: making a little progress on my 45...
Posted by akhilesh on Wed, 28 Jul 2004 01:12:54 GMT
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Certainly looks awesome, Bill. DO tell us how yours sounds too after it is done. I need to finish my kit amp (asl) after upgrading the auricaps. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: making a little progress on my 45...
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Fri, 30 Jul 2004 02:33:28 GMT
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Hey now, That's very nice looking