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Subject: SET Kits

Posted by [WhyAskWhy](#) on Tue, 17 Aug 2004 22:54:09 GMT

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I hear good things and would like to build a single triode amp. What kits are available?

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Subject: Re: SET Kits

Posted by [elektratic](#) on Wed, 18 Aug 2004 20:06:57 GMT

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WAW, Just search for "kits" here and you'll find a bunch of posts. Bottlehead, Welborne Labs and Audio Note immediately come to mind. I have used a pair of Welborne Laurels -- now discontinued in favor of their DRD amps -- for years and love them. What kind of speakers do you have; how large is your listening area; and what sorts of music do you like, and at what volumes? The answers to those questions may influence what you get. Others may disagree, but even with sensitive speakers, 2A3 amps, which put out c. 3 to 3.5W, have never had enough oomph for me, so unless you report that you have very sensitive speakers and listen exclusively to solo or small acoustic ensembles at low levels in a small space, I'd suggest a 300B amp (c. 8W). But even then, we've got to make sure your speakers are SET-friendly.

System w/ Welborne Laurels

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Subject: Re: SET Kits

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 19 Aug 2004 13:30:56 GMT

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Check out bottlehead.com. Doc just came out with a new SET kit for around \$350. I ordered one earlier in the week.....Colin

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Subject: Re: SET Kits

Posted by [davecpl](#) on Thu, 19 Aug 2004 19:57:03 GMT

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Be sure to look at  
Transcendent Sound

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Subject: S.E.X.!

Posted by [elektratic](#) on Thu, 19 Aug 2004 20:16:10 GMT

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Colin, Having built two Foreplays -- one from a kit, the other a clone -- I'm a fan of Doc B. However, his new SEX amp outputs about 2W, so you've got to be real careful about what speakers you mate it with. Doc's suggestion to use it to drive a pair of computer speakers (i.e., very, very nearfield listening) looks intriguing. What speakers are you going to be mating your SEX with (if you don't mind me getting personal)?

S.E.X.

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Subject: Re: S.E.X.!

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 19 Aug 2004 20:50:31 GMT

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Will be ordering a pair of Pi's in the near future!!!!!!

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Subject: Re: S.E.X.!

Posted by [elektratic](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 10:01:06 GMT

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Great speakers! As the owner of Studio 2s and Theater 4s, I'll be interested to hear about SEX with Pi (wasn't that a movie?).

Pi Studio 2 Construction Pix

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Subject: Nice Pix

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 12:17:40 GMT

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Nice shots. I'm going to go with either the 1 or 2 Pi bass reflex. The towers would be nice, but I just don't have the skill (or tools) to do them justice. I'm going to have a local cabinet shop cut the wood for me, and if the price is right have them do the assembly. I'm really interested in building the Pi speakers, so I can see how my Cayin TA-30 sounds in SE mode. Since I've had the Cayin, I have only run it in PP (35W) with my Maggies.....Colin

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Subject: Re: S.E.X!  
Posted by [Kevin T](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2004 21:22:28 GMT  
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Looks like a re-release of the kit from way back when.

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Subject: Audio Electronic AE-25  
Posted by [Ranier](#) on Sun, 22 Aug 2004 23:32:47 GMT  
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Sorry for the cross posting but in case you haven't seen...  
Audio Electronic AE-25 Kit

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Subject: Re: Audio Electronic AE-25  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 23 Aug 2004 01:47:41 GMT  
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That amp is push-pull.

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Subject: Re: Nice Pix  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 12:51:16 GMT  
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Hi Colin; I am unsure I understand your last post; are you saying this Cayin amp can be configured by the user to operate in either push-pull or SE? How do they do that with the output transformers? Thanks J.R.

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Subject: Re: Nice Pix  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 12:57:44 GMT  
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Yes, that is correct. All you do is pull two tubes and re-bias. See link for Cayin info:  
<http://www.angelfire.com/biz/bizzyb/cayinusa.html> See link for bias/class

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adjustment:<http://www.angelfire.com/biz/bizzyb/TA30ADJUSTMENTS.html>Pretty cool.....

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Subject: S.E.X.! re-release

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 14:07:27 GMT

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Yeah, It looks pretty similar to the PARASex - both are based on the 6dn7. The new version is single chassis, whereas the old PARAsex was dual monoblock. What really sold me on the new SEX kit is there is no need for a preamp, which will require a high input voltage and it can be used as a headphone amp. BTW, the PARASEX kit was my first DIY project ever, and it is still running flawlessly. I hope the new SEX kit holds up as well.....Colin

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Subject: Re: Nice Pix

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 18:03:46 GMT

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Absolutely, so have you tried it yet?

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Subject: Re: SET Kits

Posted by [AHENDLER](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 18:42:44 GMT

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I have just complete the Transcendent sound Single Ended OTL. This is a great low powered class A single ended OTL in kit form for \$750. Alan

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Subject: Not yet

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 19:51:44 GMT

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The Cayin has only been run in PP (35W) so far. My mains are Maggies, so the 4W SE mode would not bring anything to the "dance." I'm hoping the Pi's I eventually order will work well with the Cayin and SEX kit. Damn, I'm going to need two pairs of speakers. The list price of the TA-30 on the previously mentioned site is no where near what I paid. I got the bare-ones (sans Auricaps) model w/ sub out for around \$550.

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Subject: Re: Not yet

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 20:11:53 GMT

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Yes it has a great rep. and it looks great on the site. When it is set for SE operation it is still wired as a pentode, is that correct? Thanks for taking the time to reply, I am interested in how this works,J.R.

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Subject: Re: Not yet

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 21:39:30 GMT

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I reread the link again, and it appears it is still wired in pentode. I don't know the specifics, but I remember seeing some schematics posted somewhere of the design. I'll look for them. There was an article in audioXpress (1/02) on building a SE/PP amp using very few parts and easily switchable from on to the other. It used a Hammond 808 input transformer and a Hammond 125-E output. The article touted the 125-E as being on the few transformers that can be used either way. Good article, and I really thought about building one; however, when one added up the cost, it really wasn't worth it (IMHO.).....Colin

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Subject: Re: Not yet

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 23:20:12 GMT

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That's right, I remember that article, he built it on a piece of wood and used an input transformer as a driver if I am not mistaken. You have brought up a very good point, some of these DIY amps can run into serious money. Matter of fact I bet you would pay more for parts for that Cayin than you paid for the amp; at least close anyway. Now that I think about it; there doesn't seem to be much point in building unless it is something rare or exotic. Amps have become so inexpensive as of late. Let me see; 160\$ for a good power trans, 400 for a pair of opt's... HMMMMM!( Lets don't forget 120\$ worth of tubes if not more.)

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Subject: inexpensive gear

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2004 23:32:11 GMT

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Check out the Chinese tube amps as of late, and you'll appreciate out how little they cost. Some

of this stuff is a steal at factory direct pricing. If the cost of shipping can be brought down - now it's about 50% of unit price - these are going to take over the US market. I know in the past Chinese made goods have not had the best reputation for quality, but this stuff is getting scary good. Besides the Cayin, I have a ShengYa S-10 HDCD player, again Chinese made, and this thing is a tank. I don't have the Chinese audio links on my home computer; they're at work (where else). I'll post some of my favorites tomorrow under new link. Kind of getting off the original subject post....Colin

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Subject: Could you compare it with other SETs Alan?  
Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Wed, 25 Aug 2004 12:01:58 GMT  
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I considered this kit too, but then bought a 45 SET instead. I would LOVE to hear your impressions of the OTL SET, Alan, esp. compared to other SETs.thanx-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: Could you compare it with other SETs Alan?  
Posted by [AHENDLER](#) on Wed, 25 Aug 2004 13:10:29 GMT  
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Akhilesh, I have only listened for about 8 hours and the amp is probably not broken in yet but I will give some initial comparisons. I have owned 4 set amps. In order of purchase they are Cary 805B, Cary 2A3, Korneff 45 and Transcendent SE-OTL. I must first say that all of these amps are excellent sounding amps. The Cary 2A3 is the best sounding Cary amp I have heard. It has much greater midrange resolution than the 805. The Korneff again has the midrange magic of a 45 tube based amp with great resolution although it is only 1.5 watts. The Transcendent wins hands down in all categories. Best resolution, thrilling dynamics, great base extension and super quiet. It is simply the best amp I have ever owned. It is also the cheapest. You do need high efficiency and stable impedance speakers for these amps. I really haven't given you that much info but it is really hard to put these things into words. You need to hear for yourself Alan

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Subject: I shouldn't have asked.....  
Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Wed, 25 Aug 2004 14:17:15 GMT  
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Now I want one.....:-(thanx for the quick review, Alan. I am impressed that it sounds better than the korneff 45, to you. AS you listen to it more, I would be really interested in your thoughts. thanx-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: SET Kits

Posted by [John Chleapas](#) on Mon, 30 Aug 2004 00:31:42 GMT

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Do a google search and grab a pencil and paper and start writing down what you find. Make a list. There are lots of kits. Higher end kits are by Sunaudio, Yamamoto sound craft (try to find a Yamamoto kit sold in the Far East. The American distributor adds about \$1K to the cost.) Welborne, AudioNote and many others. I own a Welborne 300b DRD "ultimate" with SS rectification. This amplifier has really high quality parts like ElectraPrint output transformers. The build quality is top notch for a 300b amp that rocks with my 100dB horns. The bass is tight and fast, and the mid-range, and highs are just outstanding. I am soon looking for a 45 pair of mono blocks to power my 110dB efficient TAD td-4001 2" 16 ohm compression drivers. So far the Welborne 45 DRD's are upfront on my short list. I need a 2nd pair to biampify with my Marchand XM-126 2-way tube speaker crossover. Do not overlook DIY also. I just bought the Welborne wood chassis for my 300b DIY mono blocks for my apartment to drive my 93dB efficient JBL L300 Summit speakers. Just try to find a kit with high quality transformers. The iron is most important as are using good parts in a well thought out design. Even my DIY 300b amps will have Tango XE20S-2.5s output and Tamura 10H chokes. The power supply caps are paper in oil motor run caps. Lastly spend the money for good tubes. I am saving my pennies for WE 300b that are \$709 a matched pair new. I currently use TJ 300b mesh plates and they are very good sounding. Have fun and remember that all audio is very subjective. None more so than tube audio to be sure. Many will give the nod to Bottlehead. I think for a little more money you get a much better sounding amplifier with the Welborne DRD line. Then again your stereo is only as good sounding as your speakers are. Good luck finding the right kit to build and have fun always in audio! John C. Framingham, MA

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Subject: Re: SET Kits

Posted by [drguayo](#) on Sun, 05 Sep 2004 23:13:13 GMT

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I'm interested in building one of these. Was the kit fully complete or did you have to source some extra parts? What was your build time approx? thanksraig.

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Subject: Re: SET Kits

Posted by [AHENDLER](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2004 11:16:40 GMT

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The kit was complete with all parts and an excellent manual. It took me about 12 hours to build.

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