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Subject: Help with '45' problem?

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 08:29:53 GMT

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The DRD 45 sounds fine with FM Tuner and Fono. With CD it develops a fuzzy then raspy distortion that increases as the volume gets turned up. Same in both mono-blocks. Present with pre-amp and without. Can't drive them hard enough with Fono to tell but don't think so. 97 dB speakers are really about 94 as they are 16 ohm. Changed the IC's: no difference. Changed the 45 tubes: no difference. 6N1P drivers (Sovtek) are new. 5AR4's are NOS Bugle Boys. CD has the highest output of the 3 sources followed closely by the Tuner. I can't hear it on the Tuner so can it simply be clipping? Some weird digital mis-match?

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Subject: Re: Help with '45' problem?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 13:29:48 GMT

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What's the input impedance of that amp? I wonder if it's a bit low for that CD player. Another thing I've seen a lot is mechanical connections causing those symptoms. They can almost seem like magic too; You'd think they'd be consistent but they're not. If the junction makes contact but poorly, it's an intermittent connection with highly changing resistance. Places it can develop are volume pots, switches and tube sockets. Then there's those weird Valve Art tubes. Remember them on the Paramours? More magic. Sound great when running, but like Geiger counters when idle. Sometimes. And only every other tube does it, some sound great. Don't guess that's what's up with your amp, but I thought it worth mentioning. 'Spose it could be something like that. Those are some of the things I'd look at.

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Subject: Re: Help with '45' problem?

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 19:25:43 GMT

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Some things to check: 1. Are you using the same RCA jack for all inputs? 2. Have you tried a couple of different CD players? 3. Have you switched interconnects and tried it? thanks-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: Help with '45' problem?

Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 11:36:33 GMT

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Bill, 2 watts is not much for 94db speakers, what decibel levels are you hitting(spl meter). I have a pair of JBL 4800 (10" 3-way/91db) that when I play on my 45 SET amp will sound just loud enough to hear, but on a pair of Edgarhorns(105db) will run you out of the room. I wonder if the output of the cd player is a difficult impedance for the 45 amps to take???? Bring them to my house this Saturday and let's check it out. What about the 300B amps, does this situation also occur? Ron

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Subject: Re: Help with '45' problem?

Posted by [bob pace](#) on Wed, 24 Aug 2005 12:50:27 GMT

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Given that the CD is the highest level, why not test the theory that your input is too sensitive. Rig up a 100K pot between your interconnect and the input to the amp. Top of pot to center conductor of interconnect and bottom to ground. Take the wiper to the input of the amp referenced to ground. Adjust the pot to see if the problem goes away. If it does, you may be overdriving your input tube and will need to attenuate the output of the CD player. Bob

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Subject: Seems simple enough...

Posted by [Thrint](#) on Wed, 31 Aug 2005 21:19:56 GMT

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the obvious answer is that the SE45 does not have enough power for your app. The more helpful idea would be to suggest an exhaustive look into where is the overload taking place? You can go so far as to separate stages, but this might not give a clear picture if there is stage-stage interaction in the PS. If you it is an open loop, or short loop NFB amp you ought to be able to proceed from the input stage to the final and see some evidence of overload/clipping. Be thorough, and ask questions as required. cheers, Douglas

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Subject: Re: Thanks to all who replied

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Thu, 01 Sep 2005 08:35:45 GMT

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I'll be trying some 101dB speakers very soon as well as another CD player. It has to be the efficiency issue.

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Subject: Re: Help with '45' problem?

Posted by [ghpicard](#) on Thu, 01 Sep 2005 11:17:59 GMT

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I have a SE45 too. Not DRD though, but a WE91-like. When I used a 12AX7 in SRPP as driver, before switching to the WE91 config, that happened to me often. After some measurings, I came to realize that the SRPP stage was unable to fully drive the '45, and had severe rise time problems. I'd rather have distortion in the output stage than in the driver, but that is just my opinion. Bottom line, I think it could be that you are trying to squeeze too much output power and you are getting driver stage distortion. Good luck Gastón

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