Subject: Buy or Build?
Posted by Harlow on Sat, 14 Jun 2014 18:54:43 GMT
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I'm wondering how many people prefer building from scratch, or buying? Any product. But for example, for those of you who have built speakers from scratch, do you find you get a better end result than if you had bought them? I'm wondering if it's worth the effort to build certain products, or if there's a big difference in the quality of the end result.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 15 Jun 2014 01:41:31 GMT
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Hi, I build everything except speakers. I have done a few in the past, but when I re-discovered electrostatics I decided that the manufacturer (Martin Logan) did a far better job than I could. Thus ended my thoughts of speaker building. I have done some upgrades on ones like replacing the capacitors in some vintage Klipsch and Altec Lansings but generally I'm out of that stuff now. Power amps, preamps, phono stages, turntables and reel to reel recorders are now fair game.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Rachel on Fri, 20 Jun 2014 00:14:11 GMT
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I'm not very good at building things from scratch, no patience sadly. I get frustrated with it if it's not working out properly, so I buy.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Shane on Tue, 16 Sep 2014 20:06:10 GMT
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The Martin Logans are divine. I really, really like the Emerald Physics as well for a "conventional" speaker. Alas, I can probably only afford a set of Magnepan MMG Supers and to build some of John's Manzanitas.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by gofar99 on Tue, 16 Sep 2014 21:40:13 GMT
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Yeah, I did however design and build some cheap open baffle speakers. They were published in the September Audio Express. A fun cheap and decent sounding project. It won't compare to John's, but then there is a bout a 20 to 1 cost difference.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by blackbee045 on Tue, 21 Oct 2014 05:37:37 GMT
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I can probably only afford a set of Magnepan MMG Supers and to build some of John's Manzanitas.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Chase on Tue, 05 Jan 2016 01:58:06 GMT
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I have a friend who is rebuilding a vintage Crosley Cathedral-style radio. He inherited one from his great-grandfather that had been passed down through the family. It has not worked for many years but he found a place where he could get original replacement parts.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Ssal on Sat, 05 Nov 2016 03:12:54 GMT
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I prefer buying but only because I have't learnt enough to be able to do it myself yet. But as soon as I can, I will be doing it all myself.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by decibel 12 on Sun, 06 Nov 2016 18:46:26 GMT
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When it comes to this, I'll build my own frames. That's it. You won't catch me building the speaker itself from scratch. They would end up pointing north with the sound going west.

Nothing good would come from it.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by sawyer25 on Sun, 20 Nov 2016 14:15:25 GMT
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decibel 12 wrote on Sun, 06 November 2016 12:46When it comes to this, I'll build my own frames. That's it. You won't catch me building the speaker itself from scratch. They would end up pointing north with the sound going west.

Nothing good would come from it.
This is hilarious. I am not so familiar with the specifics of building from scratch so I prefer to buy. If I ever got to the point where I can get good quality through building, I would definitely go with this

option.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Charlie82 on Fri, 22 Sep 2017 18:08:49 GMT
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I've never really had the patience to build things from scratch even though I'd really like to. I've been trying to build up some more skills and patience so I can do this sort of thing. For now though, I just buy speakers.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by JazzHog on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 12:58:12 GMT
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Even though I have a background in physics, for me it is definitely buy. I think it would be quite challenging to compete with the big manufacturers in terms of quality, given all the time and money that they have to put into R&D and so on.

However, I would consider building just to learn by doing. I can see that it could be quite interesting, and it would broaden my understanding of the technology.

For those of you who have built, how do you find your built items compare with manufactured ones?

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by gofar99 on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 22:04:14 GMT
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Hi, I guess I fit into an unusual group. I design and build all my gear (going on 10 years now), but also make them for the diy / consumer communities. I'm half owner of a modest electronics company specializing in Diy kits. I have been told my kits are equal and sometimes better than anything like it. I agree, but then I am prejudiced.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Junior on Tue, 10 Jul 2018 02:24:23 GMT
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I buy most things and then try to configure or fix them when they are broken. I like to try building things from scratch, but I might end up throwing it in the end. My father loved to tinker with things, but I guess I never inherited that from him.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Rusty on Tue, 10 Jul 2018 14:59:48 GMT
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I'm a semi constructor. Starting out in the mid 80's building a Hafler amplifier kit that I still use for home theater now. I picked up some wood butchering experience and started to build speakers from plans. When I got interested in tube gear I built my monoblock amps from a kit and felt confident enough to build from a schematic to do a pre amplifier. I've never progressed to the point of design and build but feel satisfied to have found the diy designers that made my sweat equity get a very high return on my outlay.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Lindzz on Wed, 25 Jul 2018 15:46:53 GMT
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Depends on what it is. If I am going to put it in plain sight, I prefer buying because I like things that look good. But I do think building is fun (even though I'm not that great yet). And definitely can't build from scratch yet!

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Beck on Sun, 04 Jul 2021 06:29:54 GMT
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almost everything because I'm afraid that the materials I'll use in creating something might go to waste.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Helen on Fri, 03 Oct 2025 14:56:11 GMT
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decibel 12 wrote on Sun, 06 November 2016 12:46When it comes to this, I'll build my own frames. That's it. You won't catch me building the speaker itself from scratch. They would end up pointing north with the sound going west.

Nothing good would come from it.
This cracked me up! It is better for one not to over stress themselves. You should build the ones that you can build while buying already-made ones such as the speakers.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Becky on Mon, 20 Oct 2025 18:19:53 GMT
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There are certain things that I won't do by myself and building a speaker from the scratch is one of them. I've never try to build a speaker before and I won't start now for that. I prefer to buy the manufactured one at the store, it will be more better than want I will do.

Subject: Re: Buy or Build?
Posted by Hank on Wed, 04 Feb 2026 15:40:40 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Tue, 03 July 2018 17:04Hi, I guess I fit into an unusual group. I design and build all my gear (going on 10 years now), but also make them for the diy / consumer communities. I'm half owner of a modest electronics company specializing in Diy kits. I have been told my kits are equal and sometimes better than anything like it. I agree, but then I am prejudiced.
I am just like you. I am happier when I buy all my sound devices right from the Speakers to the last. I am trying to become better at building better devices, but I know that it is going to become a bit better for me with time. I don't feel those vibes when I spend dollars buying any tool that I make use of.