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Subject: Bargain Blaster

Posted by [Man From Uncle](#) on Thu, 14 Oct 2004 18:31:19 GMT

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What's the cheapest good sounding rig you've ever heard? I am looking for dirt cheap systems that put a smile on the face and a tap on the toes. Chip amps, SET amps, single drivers, little twoways, whatever. No fair telling us about the 6000\$ amp you found in a garage sale for 10\$ though. :-)

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Subject: Re: Bargain Blaster

Posted by [lon](#) on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 06:50:59 GMT

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Well, I don't get out a lot. :-) From my building experience, the most bang for the buck is PVC pipe. Parts are cheap. You don't have to have a shop and they look like they're from the future. Just about any full range driver will work-- RS 1197 or upscale FE127e's. There's probably a 4" from Tangband that will work too. You mount the speak on one end and the other end is open. Allow about 80 inches in between. Supply elbows to shape to taste. Here's a shorter version:

PVC periscopes

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Subject: Great site

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 18:00:53 GMT

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I found the link a couple of years ago, after I bought a pair of 8" "full range" speakers from RS. Still haven't done anything with them. But for the money, you are dead on referencing this site....Colin

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Subject: Re: Great site

Posted by [lon](#) on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 18:45:40 GMT

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Like I said, I am fairly isolated from hearing a lot of builds and I don't know how this would apply to theory, but... If you have the 8 inchers you could make a quick transmission line with some 6" in PVC., one elbow and a base. I have never seen any PVC 6" pipe used... only 4". Try some of these experiments and you will look like the set of McHales Navy or Oh Susanna! starring Gale Storm and Charles Farrel. But you are probably not that old. :-) Here's the other PVC

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reference I have with some different techniques: Also here, for the more whimsical or projects to make for kids: <http://www.t-linespeakers.org/projects/sampson/index.html>  
Laying Pipe with Audio Leggo

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Subject: Re: Great site  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 19:11:23 GMT  
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Thanks again for the great link. As for finding larger PVC tubes, you might want to check out a commercial plumbing supply store. Better yet, if there is new construction where you live, ask the contractors to keep an eye out for you. You'd be amazed what \$20 and a beer will get you. It got me about \$5k worth of landscaping and some new friends....Colin

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Subject: Sonotubes R Us : Re: Great site  
Posted by [lon](#) on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 19:32:31 GMT  
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I've wondered where to get the good stuff as far as Sonotube goes. The stuff at Home Depot in USA is pretty flimsy and looks like it would need bracing just to stand up. On the center of a circle thing, I was considering getting some MDF pre-cut 'table tops' and at Home Depot but I haven't found the right dimension-- either too big or too small to begin with.

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Subject: Re: Sonotubes R Us : Re: Great site  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 19:59:55 GMT  
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You might try a craft's store. I've seen wood pine circle in various diameters there before. Couldn't hurt to call around. As for the sonotube being flimsy, I had the same concern when I looked at them. I think, however, once you get a top and bottom on, they should be fine without the need for internal bracing. What kind of woodworking tools do you have? I've seen homemade jigs for bandsaws that are used to cut exact circles. Also, it might sound silly, but concrete is pretty easy to work with and the forms are easily built. With a little practice, one can get a glass smooth finish. My wife and I played with concrete for a while; we are trying to make our own kitchen counters tops. We got to where we could lay 3' x 3' sections with simple forms and basic tools to almost a mirror finish. Concrete can also be colored rather easily to give some rather interesting effects.....Colin

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Subject: Re: Sonutubes R Us : Re: Great site  
Posted by [lon](#) on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 23:58:21 GMT  
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My tool collection is pretty meager. A hacksaw works to cut down PVC pipe. An electric hand drill and drill guide can make straight pilot holes and a few hole saws mounted in the drill chuck can do cutouts for up to 4" drivers. I also own 4 clamps. :-). The most versatile tool I got was a generic RotoZipor 'spinsaw' (\$30 on sale) which comes with an assortment of add-ons to cut larger circles (though sometimes not ver true), will take 3/8 shank standard router bits to do various depth of cut rabbets and chamfers for driver holes. I'd rather have a good router though. Add a few screw drivers and that's about it. Up til recently I had an arrangement for a fellow whom I sold a table saw to (an estate sale) to cut wood, but I have lost communication w/him so I'm back to 1.) looking for a new cutter or 2.) exploring the use of a sawboard (see craftsmen section here.) I am not a home owner. I'm 57 and live in a one bedroom apt. So even if I could afford good tools I couldn't use 'em.

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Subject: Re: Sonutubes R Us : Re: Great site  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Sat, 16 Oct 2004 01:40:13 GMT  
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Lon, Please refresh my memory: What size sonotube are you looking to cap? Maybe (no promises) I can help you out. This is something I've been wanting to do for some time, and maybe you can be my inspiration. BTW, I live in Cincinnati. Any chance you're from these parts?....Colin

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