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Subject: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [Csharp](#) on Sun, 06 Sep 2020 22:34:53 GMT

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In regards to upgrades, when is enough enough for you? Is there a line you draw for expenditures? Are you looking for that perfect sound?

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 07 Sep 2020 12:47:58 GMT

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While I'm currently working on an 'upgrade' in the form of a preamp kit. It's been close to twenty years since I've done anything considered an upgrade. There isn't any perfect sound I think for music reproduction. Just a form of satisfaction. And getting on the upgrade-itis treadmill trying new equipment to find a holy grail is what Audiogon is all about. Boring I think.

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [The Noise](#) on Mon, 07 Sep 2020 18:22:06 GMT

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I'm not looking for a perfect sound as much as I'm looking for that perfect room. Some people have reading rooms.....I want that perfect listening room.

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 08 Sep 2020 02:09:17 GMT

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Hi, Hummm...This is a question like can you have too much chocolate? I kind of believe that audio is almost an addiction. There is no end. I suspect that for most of us it slows down a lot when the cost goes up. But it is always lurking in the background. 8o

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [Mica](#) on Sun, 25 Oct 2020 14:48:59 GMT

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Gofar... I love that answer. Too much chocolate? No way! I think for us we are always adding on or "tweaking" something with our system. When something new comes out, I want it.

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [Concorde](#) on Wed, 02 Dec 2020 02:55:58 GMT

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I upgrade my music, not the machines I play it on. Then again, I see no need for 3D television either.

The only reason I'll upgrade is out of necessity. If something breaks.

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 02 Dec 2020 18:04:02 GMT

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To me, "enough" is when an upgrade is either inaudible or the price/performance ratio is excessive.

For example, I sell loudspeaker kits and some upgrades are both measurable and audible. I distinguish between "audible" and "measurable" because I can measure some stuff that's too tiny to hear. So some upgrades are definitely worth it because they offer an improvement that is noticeable - you can easily hear the difference.

Other upgrades are more subtle. Those offer measurable improvements and yet you can't easily hear the difference. A person might forego that kind of upgrade because the improvement is so subtle.

Some upgrades provide measurable improvements so small that it may be impossible to hear, but yet cost thousands of dollars. The improvement is real - I can measure it - but it is small enough to be inaudible. That's an Nth degree upgrade, one that is only considered in "price no object" systems.

And even some upgrades are just brand names that don't even offer a measurable improvement. Can't hear it, and can't even measure it. So I tell folks those kinds of upgrades are really for "bragging rights." Of course, some people will claim to hear a difference but I think that's an "Emperor's New Clothes" thing. It's another "Nth degree upgrade" that might be worth it to some people but probably not for most.

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [Vaiger](#) on Wed, 02 Dec 2020 23:31:04 GMT

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I agree with the brand name comment. Doing that would just be a "social awareness" upgrade and not performance. I don't want to show off my equipment, I want to enjoy it.

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

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Posted by [OutOfSpace](#) on Thu, 17 Dec 2020 22:08:11 GMT

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"To me, "enough" is when an upgrade is either inaudible or the price/performance ratio is excessive."

Think; extra fancy-pants audiophile speaker cables. In the grand scheme of things, we're talking about fairly low frequencies and a very low impedance environment. I'd bet \$50 nobody could pick them out in a blind A/B listening test.

IMNSHO, the biggest bang for the buck is in transducers, not so much the electronics. With audio transducers (speakers, phono cartridges, headphones, mics), the spread in performance/cost is much better than with electronics. Sure, there are more subtle improvements with electronics, but transducers are where it's at, baby!

As an aside, I recently picked up a semi-fancy guitar cab mic to replace a really cheap 3/\$40 mic, for my guitar use. While I can certainly hear a difference, the cheap one was surprisingly good, so the benefits of the fancier one are worth it to me, but it's close to the cut-off.

Also related, I replaced the pickups in one of my guitars (Strat), and oh man! What a difference! Yet another transducer, not so much the electronics.

Chris

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Subject: Re: When It Is Enough?

Posted by [Acacia](#) on Thu, 25 Mar 2021 03:34:55 GMT

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When I'm satisfied with the current upgrade, I tend to stop at that because I feel regretful buying new ones unnecessarily. With earphones though, I prefer having different kinds, wireless and not, depending on what seems comfortable using.

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