Subject: which PI speaker to build
Posted by pittiplatsch on Sun, 13 Dec 2020 20:07:52 GMT
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Hello @all,

I plan to build a PI speaker to be used in a rather large and open living room (no corner placement). As this is my first DIY speaker project I would like to stay a bit on the budget constraint side for the first try (if possible). Somehow I settled for the 4 PI, but I would go for another model as well. That's basically my first question: is the 4 PI a good choice for my plans (listening condition in a large room and budget beginner project?) or are there better options.
Are there any upgrades I shall consider right from the start or is this something I could always do later on (e.g. upgrade drivers). Can the 4 PI also be build as a floor standing speaker to get a bit more bass extension?

you see - lots of beginner questions and thanks for your help.

Subject: Re: which PI speaker to build
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 14 Dec 2020 03:47:51 GMT
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The four Pi speaker is an excellent model for your needs. It's very popular and has a lot of options, so you can choose whatever fits your needs. Lots of people have built 'em on here too, so you'll have an abundance of support.

I would also encourage using flanking subs, but those can be built later. So you can upgrade parts within the speaker as time and funds permit, and you can also add-on subs later for a whole 'nother dimension in sound.

Subject: Re: which PI speaker to build
Posted by pittiplatsch on Mon, 14 Dec 2020 17:10:19 GMT
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Thanks for the fast help Wayne, that sounds good.

I would like to have them as stand-alone speakers for now and maybe add the subs later.
My plan would be to build them as floor standing speakers to not need any speaker stands. To do so I would probably just extend the cabinets. Question is whether the additional volume can be used to achieve a few Hz more low end or whether I shall rather keep the available speaker volume the same and really just extend the cabinet. 50 Hz -3dB in room are good if it can be achieved but 30..40Hz would be perfect for me for just music listening usage.

In regards to the upgrades: I struggle with the JBL driver upgrade for now due to it's price. For the

price wise smaller upgrades I consider the compression driver upgrade. Are any of the other upgrades recommended right from the start?

Subject: Re: which PI speaker to build
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 14 Dec 2020 18:19:33 GMT
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Please read the following links from the Pi Speakers FAQ:
Cabinet design, port placement and internal standing waves
Damping material placement
Altering dimensions

Subject: Re: which PI speaker to build
Posted by pittiplatsch on Mon, 14 Dec 2020 22:46:20 GMT
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Thanks, that clarifies what I will do: I won't mess with the design at all, will extend the cabinet while keeping the actually used volume identical.