Subject: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Shane on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 03:21:37 GMT
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Well, I'm going to be aquiring the SL-5 in several weeks, and I'll need to get a linestage for the thing. I would prefer to keep it inexpensive (less than $100 for sure) and possibly DIY (I like to tinker). I'll look at a Seduction or something tubey later when I get a table worthy of something good, but for now I need something to go with the SL-5. I've looked at the Hagerman Bugle which would run about $75 to get a board and populate it. It can run off of batteries or a PS that Hagerman has.Manualblock - I saw where you mentioned you have a design for a DIY stage that would be very inexpensive and get me by with decent sound. I thought I'd move any suggestions to the vinyl forum so it might help someone else as well.Any other suggestions?

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 11:43:09 GMT
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Well I can say that this little op-amp based unit may surprise people. The only drawback I can see is you must change batteries every 8 or 10 hrs of play. Comparing it too the Seduction then the Seduction is a better unit soundwise; but this little battery unit will sound much better than anything integrated into a reciever and better than many of the cheaper units like NAD. I haven't tried the newer better op-amps but if they do what the manufacturers claim then that should up the ante quite a bit. The sound is very smooth and mellow but good detail. Thats the best I can do description wise.If the Hag goes for 75$ then you nreed a power supply you are looking at what; about 125$? This can be assembled I would guess for maybe 80$.

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Shane on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 12:13:14 GMT
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Manualblock- I'd be interested in the design your using.The Hag can be run with batteries only, or you can also make the PS and run it off that. Without the PS and just using batteries would be about $75-80 or so.

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 13:27:56 GMT
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I still have a Seduction kit in the box, unopened. I had a pair of Paramours and a Foreplay too, had planned on making an all-Bottlehead system at one time. But I got rid of it all except the Seduction kit when I found the Stoetkit. One of these times, maybe I'll build the Seduction and put it in an attractive chassis.

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Shane on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 15:35:56 GMT
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I'm thinking if I like vinyl I'll end up getting a Seduction. Inexpensive really and supposedly very nice sounding and I can DIY a nice chassis. I've heard some vinyl on good rigs ($1000 +), but never on a "mid" grade setup, which is what many consider a Technics 1200 and is probably as far as I'm willing to go at this point. So something simple like Manualblock has or the Hagtech Bugle is probably right up my alley.

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 18:01:51 GMT
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With your skills at making attractive cabinets, I'd say the Seduction might be a pretty good bet. It doesn't cost much and sounds pretty good. But the thing that concerns me about sound quality of the Bottlehead kits is the noise they make. With high efficiency speakers, their kits make too much hum.

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Shane on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 18:39:40 GMT
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I've heard about the hum with the second generation kits, but have heard good reports about the third gen. kits regarding hum. Still, I'm not going to pull the trigger on something like that till I'm sure about using vinyl.

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 20:47:25 GMT

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You could be right. What's different about them?

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Shane on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 22:40:00 GMT
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I think they changed the iron a little bit and added the option of the C4S board. Supposed to make it more betterer.Heck, I just need to get the TT working first!

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 23:23:02 GMT
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Well; I can speak to this thread because I have the Seduction with the C4s boards installed and the other upgrades. I have used that for about two years now. Truth is it is a very good sounding unit; I would say you need at least 600$ to better it. However that being said; I use a low-output MC and as such I need the step-up trans. Thats another 250$ on top of the Seduction. So what I have now is a Luxman MC phono stage I got on Ebay. This particular unit is scarce so I grabbed it as soon as i saw it listed. It is rumoured to be designed by Tim D'pavaracini. I am happier with the sound of this unit even though it is SS. In fact Lux makes the nicest sounding SS around for my money and it is fairley priced. So the Seduction is idle.If you want I can shoot a pic of the Op-amp unit. I had a friend do up a PC board for it so while the board is a homeade and a little rough it works well. If you have any questions you can always e-mail me.

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Shane on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 23:36:21 GMT
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Sure, I'd take pic --of both sides of the board if you can. I can p2p on a protoboard if need be.

Subject: Re: Inexpensive Phono Stage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 21 Jun 2006 05:03:32 GMT

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Each of the Bottlehead kits I bought had C4S boards. I guess they've been including them for a few years now, since 2001 or 2002. But they're still pretty noisy, even with the C4S.

Subject: Here's one I found.
Posted by Shane on Fri, 23 Jun 2006 02:01:13 GMT
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It's similar to the Black Cube, which I believe Hagtech's Bugle is based off of also.
DIY preamp

Subject: Re: Here's one I found.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 23 Jun 2006 05:30:53 GMT
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I'd be interested to know how that sounds. I'd also like to know of other tube phono stages. Keep us posted if you try any of these.

Subject: Re: Here's one I found.
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 23 Jun 2006 11:37:53 GMT
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The op-amp circuit looks good; similar to what I have. But it is a little more complicated. I have the circuit here but my dog ate the end of the scanner cord. So as soon as I get around to replacing it I can send a pic.Another one you might want to look at because it already has a PC designed for it is ESP's version. His stuff is well regarded although I haven't heard that one myself.

Subject: Re: Here's one I found.
Posted by Shane on Fri, 23 Jun 2006 13:55:07 GMT
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MB - Do you have a web link for ESP's? Can't seem to find it.

Subject: Re: Here's one I found.
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 23 Jun 2006 17:01:26 GMT
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This might work and you can try Elliot Sound Products. He has the most thorough and well documented as well as good solid engineering practice site concerning audio around. His PC's though are a little flimsy but very inexpensive. Usually 15$ gets you a PC for a project.
http://sound.westhost.com/articles.htm

Subject: Heathkit WA-P2
Posted by Shane on Tue, 27 Jun 2006 17:24:57 GMT
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My grandfather had a Heathkit W5M amp with the WA-P2 pre for it when I was a kid. I happen to have the kit manual for the preamp. Is this design any good? I realize it would need a PS made for it since they actually ran off the amp's PS.

Subject: Re: Heathkit WA-P2
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 18:11:03 GMT
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I can only say this; they don't have the greatest reputation. Thats from scuttlebutt; not my personal experience but it seems to be a pretty universal opinion. Are you still looking for the Phono stage?

Subject: Re: Heathkit WA-P2
Posted by Shane on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 20:30:55 GMT
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Well, that's what I figured.Yes, I'm still trying to decide what I want to do. I've got an old Carver Receiver as well as the Kenwood integrated (which is my living room amp that has a phono stage) so I can get by with those for now I guess. But I believe that any of the DIY like Hagtechs are better than the one in the Kenwood more than likely.

Subject: Re: Heathkit WA-P2

Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 00:39:09 GMT
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Another idea pops up in my head. The Dyna pas 3x in so-so shape goes for about 125$ I think on the bay. What; and I am speculating here; but what if someone were to completely refurbish just the phono section in one; at minimal cost. Using one of the many and varied designs for those pre-amps on the net; or even using a Dyna SCA 35; just the phono stage to save money. The PC boards for the phono stage are 35$ from Sheldon. Rebuild the PC and go out through the tape monitor. Save money on not re-doing the line stage; just doing minimal upgrades to the PS....Ahhh; maybe not.But it is a thought. Eventually to complete the pre-amp which regardless of what people say is a very competent and pleasant sounding unit when properly tuned.Total cost for the phono stage would come in under 150$ and would certainly hold it's value in the market. MHO; it sure beats the Bottlehead combo at three times the price or more.Ohh; I still owe you the op-amp circuit. Can you E-Mail me?

Subject: sent
Posted by Shane on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 01:49:40 GMT
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Email sent. shaneybob_at_sbcglobal_dot_com not my usual forum addy. Wasn't paying attn. Sorry to confuse.

Subject: FET phono stage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 13:21:01 GMT
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A buddy of mine has a phono preamp design that may interest you. It is an FET based design, very low noise and high quality. I'll ask him to contact you, if you're interested.

Subject: Re: FET phono stage
Posted by Shane on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 15:26:53 GMT
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Wayne, does he have a website or anything? Got the copy email you sent to Jerry.

Subject: Re: FET phono stage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 17:19:11 GMT
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No, Jerry is a contractor I'm doing a project with for IBM. Apparently, he's into audio and used to be in it in a big way. So I'm suggesting to him that he become reaquainted. I talked with him just now at lunch, and probably will help him get boards etched and what not. I think he has some good things to offer, and he lives in Dallas so I've told him to get hooked up with the guys in the Texas audio clubs.