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Subject: Black Hole 5 vs. Sonic Barrier - Any opinions?  
Posted by [gumby1](#) on Wed, 09 Nov 2005 08:01:34 GMT  
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I am planning to build two Rythmik Audio Servo Subwoofers next month. I am considering using either Black Hole 5 from GR Research or Sonic Barrier from Parts Express to line the cabinets. Does anyone have any experience or opinions on these products?

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Subject: Re: Black Hole 5 vs. Sonic Barrier - Any opinions?  
Posted by [Duke](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 06:40:25 GMT  
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I bought some Sonic Barrier once. Maybe I got a bad batch, but the stick-um on it was pretty weak, and it started falling off the enclosure walls before I had finished installing the drivers. Can't comment from experience on the effectiveness of either one in a subwoofer application, but one of the manufacturers I represent uses Black Hole 5 in the "hot-rod" versions of his full-range speakers. In a subwoofer enclosure, I'd be inclined more towards making the enclosure walls super-stiff, to drive the resonant modes above the subwoofer's passband, and then putting some polyfill in the box to eat up residual lower midrange energy. If the crossover is low enough and steep enough, you might not need any polyfill. But I don't think either Black Hole 5 or Sonic Barrier is going to do much at subwoofer frequencies. Duke

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Subject: Re: Black Hole 5 vs. Sonic Barrier - Any opinions?  
Posted by [gumby1](#) on Sat, 12 Nov 2005 00:24:50 GMT  
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Thanks for the input. The designer of the Rythmik kits recommends about 3 inches of polyfill on the insides of the cabinet. Another subwoofer kit manufacturer recommended the Black Hole 5. How would fiberglass insulation work in this application? Any thoughts? I have plenty of R-13 laying around.

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Subject: Re: Black Hole 5 vs. Sonic Barrier - Any opinions?  
Posted by [steve f](#) on Mon, 14 Nov 2005 02:18:18 GMT  
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I'm not a big fan of placing any kind of stuffing in subwoofer cabinets. You have to be very careful to attach it securely. Long excursion woofers can cause quite a bit of turbulence inside the box. I

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usually just adjust cabinet volume. Steve

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Subject: Re: Black Hole 5 vs. Sonic Barrier - Any opinions?

Posted by [Cuppa Joe](#) on Wed, 30 Nov 2005 04:42:42 GMT

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Although it's a tardy response, better late than never! The main problem with fiberglass insulation is the DUST. The aforementioned turbulence can cause fiberglass particles to impact the back of the cone, or to (eventually) find their way into the driver's voice coil. Someone (don't remember who) makes a 1" thick, unbacked roll of fiberglass insulation, which is lightly spray-coated with a sealant to prevent dusting. It's still not as good as polyfill, but it's a lot cheaper, and is still a vast improvement over the ol' R19!

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Subject: Re: Black Hole 5 vs. Sonic Barrier - Any opinions?

Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Wed, 30 Nov 2005 17:06:21 GMT

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I can't speak towards the particular design you may be using, but I've measured all of my subs both with and without damping, and they all work better without.

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Subject: Re: Black Hole 5 vs. Sonic Barrier - Any opinions?

Posted by [gumby1](#) on Thu, 01 Dec 2005 03:41:10 GMT

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Bill, I know your subwoofers are horn loaded, but I am building a sealed cabinet of two cubic feet for servo subwoofers. It might be an "apples and oranges" comparison. I have built speakers in the past using R13 insulation and never noticed a dust issue even after 300 hours of use. Perhaps a subwoofer would cause a breakdown of the fiberglass. I'm not sure.

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