
Subject: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Mon, 30 May 2005 21:17:05 GMT
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The A7s still need the drivers installed and front baffle screwed on. Other than that the room is ready to go. Should be running tomorrow.....Colin

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 30 May 2005 22:38:12 GMT
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Man, that's great! You must be excited. I'm excited for you!

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Tue, 31 May 2005 20:15:53 GMT
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Just like Larry the cable guy says:"Get-r-done!!!"Nice room Colin!Ron

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Tue, 31 May 2005 23:43:34 GMT
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Cool. Looks very familiar. Let us know how your A7 project goes. I love mine, but they can take some fooling with to get to sound right. I realize they are just set in the room and all, but experiment with considerable more tow in to where the axis of the speakers cross in front of the listening position. Every room is different, but this set up has improved "imaging" and so forth in some I've dealt with. as usual, YMMV. Are those 511b or 811b horns?Regards,Russellc

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Wed, 01 Jun 2005 00:12:39 GMT
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I'm just about to go upstairs and hook everything up. I know it's going to take some moving around to get things to sound right. I hope it doesn't take too much moving though; those cabs are heavy. The horns are 511s. I started out with 811s, but Spkrman57 traded me. I'll have more pictures and a report later this evening.....Colin

Subject: IT'S ALIVE

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Wed, 01 Jun 2005 05:22:08 GMT

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They are up and running and playing sweet music. Lots of tweeking to do with regard to room placement. More to come.....Colin

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 01 Jun 2005 15:45:01 GMT

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Congratulations! I love the photo of Gene Wilder as Young Frankenstein, by the way. I can just hear him saying that!

Subject: Thanks to everyone

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Wed, 01 Jun 2005 15:54:14 GMT

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Thanks, I could not put this together without the help of fellow ART members. I would like to thank Manualblock (John) and Spkrman57 (Ron) for all the hand holding. I could not have done it without the help of these guys. Wayne, this place really is the best and something to be very proud of. I know we don't say it enough, but thanks for making ART such a wonderful place to visit.....Colin

Subject: Re: Thanks to everyone

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 01 Jun 2005 16:35:36 GMT

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Don't forget to thank yourself; you are a big part of the best of ART. And remember; these older hornloaded systems are a lifelong endeavor and there is always something new to absorb. On the Joelist is at this time a very interesting discussion going on about the vintage JBL drivers and how to implement them. It is my contention that it takes huge amounts of money to buy something that will significantly improve on the JBL/Altec vintage drivers. But the best part is every thing you do to improve them brings positive and noticable results.

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Wed, 01 Jun 2005 16:45:49 GMT
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Good trade. i myself prefer the 511b. examine your 511bs carefully and note whether or not it is one of the later models. the later (and to my ears better) ones have the "vanes" in the horn pre-cut and the gap filled with a rubbery like substance. also, a very small brace way back in the throat is absent, but the mounting spots are there. these tricks go a long way towards eliminating the ringing effect. If you have the later models, they can benefit by being seperated with a sawsall and the slot filled with silicone or rubber. Also knock out that pesky brace in the back of the throat. what sort of drivers did you end up with? Regards, russellc

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE
Posted by [zincman](#) on Wed, 01 Jun 2005 23:16:55 GMT
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Nice to finally get to yack at you Colin. Great looking set up, I am sure it will sound great. Below is a picture of my wall oh stuff. Bottlehead Foreplay, Paramour, Altec 416/811/802, backloaded horns, and misc other stuff. Most of which comes from Sprkman57 (Ron), who is a going to put my in the dog house before it is over but it should sound sweet.
<http://img237.echo.cx/my.php?image=img02886rt.jpg>

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 13:25:07 GMT
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Sorry about the kids yelling while we on the phone. They do not realize that they are not the center of the universe. Your Bottlehead gears is nice stuff. They have all the upgrades, don't they? I like the picture of your room. I cannot wait to come give it a listen. I'll have to check with the wife for our schedule and see when you and Ron can come over. I'm thinking Ron is going to

have to sneak through the back door, just to avoid the wife.If there is anything I can help you with, please give me a call.....Colin

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE

Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 14:20:23 GMT

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Yeah my kids never bother me on the phone It is good to find someone that is familiar with "Speed Listening" to single folks that is a new audio technique similar to Speed Golfing. Yeah the Bottlehead stuff has all the mods and all I need is some tube rolling 2A3's. My wife refers to my stuff as my wall of junk, but what does she know:-).Tim

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 15:01:51 GMT

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Forget speed golf. I'm a speed drinker.Tell when you can make it down for a listen. If it's better to come in the evening after the kids are in bed, that works for me.....Colin

Subject: Horns

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 18:13:34 GMT

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John, Thanks for the vote. It's been a lot of fun here. I turned up the volume on the A7s today - just for fun. Man, those things put out some sound. You're right about taking more money for better sound. Vintage Altec/JBL must be the unknown bargain of the century. I'm going to have to do some tweeking and room treatment to get the best they can offer, and I'm sure the results will be "positive and noticable."I surprised no one has chimed in regarding your question about what makes an A7. As far as I can tell from the spec sheets, about any combination of drivers makes one. I'll try to find the papers later. I'm still pouring over the literature you kindly sent. If you have more, I'd be more than happy to see it.I really like your setup. Hopefully I can come up and give it a listen in the next year or so. I'm putting out feelers regarding a low power(what else) 45 SE amp. Got any thoughts. I'm thinking 1-2 watts is plenty.....Colin

Subject: Re: Horns

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 18:34:29 GMT

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Thanks for the kind words and the attention to that A7 post. It seems that there is really two camps of opinion concerning the use of 416/515 and the pair of woofers were really interchangeable in as far as Altec provided them in stock A7 units. But their specs are different which brings up that post. I see after reviewing the lit I sent it mostly deals with pro applications and it also exposes the 416 as the A7 driver of choice. However the Hiraga set-up and the Exemplar both use the Ferric version of the 515; I would be interested to know of anyone else who favored that system. There must be a reason those drivers go for 600\$ a piece. Congradgulations on your set-up; I know it sounds great. Man I am still in a quandrey concerning amps; I will send you a schematic for a nice simple 813 tube SE I stumbled upon that looks promising. It provides 20 clean watts of power and seems simple to build but gets high marks for immediacy and detail. One of Doug's favorite tubes. As a point of reference I believe Jean Hiraga uses his 20 watt class A SS amp on his A5's. I am still waiting for Doug to come up with the 12b4 circuit for Guinevere; I posted that I was tearing it down to put it in a better enclosure and he suggested I wait for the new schematic before going ahead with it.

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE

Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 23:03:53 GMT

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I hope I can come pretty soon. I still need to get over to Ron's to grab the other VOTT cabs. I can't wait to hear the 416 in a larger cabinet. Speed Beer is also a sport catering to us Daddies but rumor has it even single people like it

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 23:07:57 GMT

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If we can hook up and go to Ron's together, we can take my truck and haul the cabs back. Hate to tell you this, but speed drinking it how you got to be a Dad.....Colin

Subject: Re: Horns

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 23:18:11 GMT

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Said it before and I'll say it again, i have both pairs of woofers, (515g and 416 8c and while both sound fabulous, I prefer the 416 drivers. The guys on the Altec users forum don't seem to agree with me for the most part however, so you results may vary. The 515s of mine are more massive, and are truely almost sculpture, but I like the 416s better by a very small margin. The altec users forum advised me the 515 would need to be "equalized" and would then better the 416. Whatever both are great. Regards,Russellc

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE

Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 23:59:02 GMT

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in my case that is a true statement. Have you seen this link before? Oh my God, prices have climbed a bit?

<http://www.alteclansing.com/legacy/specs.asp>

Subject: Re: Horns

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2005 00:03:42 GMT

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Maybe it is that the A7's do come with 515's stock and 416's but all the Bass Reflex Altecs use 416's exclusively. You don't see a 515 in anything for the home use. So what is the deciding factor?

Subject: Re: IT'S ALIVE

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2005 00:21:05 GMT

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Yeap, true statement in my wife's case, but we're still trying to find out who the parents are I knew the newly re-issued VOTTs were up around \$9k. Like I said to Manualblock, these old things are the best kept secrets in audio land.....Colin

Subject: Re: Horns

Posted by [GM](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2005 23:29:37 GMT

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Greetings! It's like most things, you 'rob Peter to pay Paul', so between these two it's efficiency Vs BW gain. The 515 has a weak bottom end compared to the 416, though I imagine the main reason they weren't used in Hi-Fi apps was their higher cost, but EQ them both flat and compare them at the same amplitude over the same BW that they were designed for and they will sound the same, though there will be some folks who'll swear on a stack of bibles they can hear the difference of the 515's ~5% lower Mms. What folks do hear though since they typically don't EQ the 515 flat is its greater rising response that when used with a typical Altec textbook XO causes a hump in the FR above ~500Hz, ergo it sounds 'faster'/'higher resolution'/etc.. It's this 'quality' that makes it the better driver (whether horn loaded or not) for blending to the big multicells and sectoral horns that are coupled to the higher efficiency drivers. Bottom line, unless you either use dual 515s/channel or a highly damped sub system of sufficient efficiency, then IMO the 416 is the choice for all Altec based Hi-Fi apps since too much EQ/eff. loss is required to flatten the 515. GM

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 00:52:25 GMT
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Hey, Sorry for the delay. Every time I go upstairs to look and see what HF driver I'm using, I sit down for a quick listen and forget. Anyway, the HF is an 802A; the LF is a 416C rebuilt by Great Plains, and the XO is the standard Altec 500 Hz. Regarding the horns mods. I just cannot bring myself to sawzall the vanes or knock out the center peg. Yeah, it might sound better, but I just don't have the heart. I'm still playing around with positioning. It's getting better but I can still hear the HF and LF drivers as different sources. I think I'm going to put the 811s in the cabs and see if that helps any.....Colin

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [GM](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 01:54:44 GMT
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Greetings! Smaller horn/higher XO makes it worse until you find the right offset. Turning the cab upside down and putting the horn in the port helps somewhat, but makes finding the right offset more of a PIA if you don't make an adjustable sled for it and the sound is compromised in other ways, though they can be dealt with. GM

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 02:06:07 GMT
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I understand completely. My 811bs are "unsawed" and I was told by many to cover them with dynamat. I couldn't do it. When I got the 511s I have now, I was going to saw them, couldn't do it, so I bought an ugly set off ebay to do it to, and that is when I discovered the difference between the two different types of 511bs. I also use the 4168C, but the old altec. Also have a set of 5158Gs, but prefer the 416s by a slight, very slight, margin. I also sometimes use 802 8b (w/a 500 hz crossover) and while I really prefer the look of the 802 8bs, I prefer the sound of the 902 I usually use. (again, both are great sounding and the difference is very slight). Absolutely insane volume levels! Your brain tells you the tweeter can't survive at this level, but its only loafing at home "loud levels". Great fun, huge big vintage sound and curious industrial looks to boot. I wanted A7s for years, finally went nuts one day and bought some, happy ever since. But I am itching to get the 3 way 7Pi w/mid horn cabs built. I have all the necessary JBL drivers boxed up and waiting. Regards, Russellc

Subject: Re: Horns
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 12:04:26 GMT
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Gotcha; then the mids have more energy for those big theaters.

Subject: Re: Horns
Posted by [GM](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 15:52:34 GMT
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Greetings! Yep, the 515 series were specifically optimized for 'throwing' the critical midbass/lower mids out far/loud enough through a perforated screen, and also in the case of the 803/416 series, with the midbass horn only acting as a blending 'bridge' between the driver's upper BW efficiency and the cab's lower efficiency LF BW. GM

Subject: Re: Horns
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 16:44:25 GMT
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Very informative. I wouldn't feel bad with either set, just lucky to have both right now. I originally got the 416s for a reflex 4Pi, but later got jbl woofers, so I tried them in the A-7s while one of the 515s was out for a recone. Both really sound fine. GM, I think it may be the additional bass of the 416 that I like, and my "unequalized" 515s, but the difference is slight. When I first removed the 515 to send it out, I stuck in the 416, and for a couple days ran them like that! Still sounded good.

I doubt I could A-B them and do any better than probability, I'm getting ready to switch the 416s out and reinstall the 515s. A little workout to be sure.russellc

Subject: Re: Horns
Posted by [GM](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 19:32:03 GMT
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Greetings! Yep, the 515 series were specifically optimized for 'throwing' the critical midbass/lower mids out far/loud enough through a perforated screen, and also in the case of the 803/416 series, with the midbass horn only acting as a blending 'bridge' between the driver's upper BW efficiency and the cab/driver's lower efficiency LF BW.GM

Subject: Re: A7s upstairs and almost ready to go
Posted by [Earl Geddes](#) on Tue, 07 Jun 2005 12:43:23 GMT
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By the way, I have a pair of A7 horns and drivers in nearly mint condition if anyone is interested.
