Subject: The EZ As Pie Tower Speaker
Posted by FredT on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 16:00:41 GMT
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I hope Wayne doesn't mind my using the Pie name for this speaker, but it uses the basic Studio One Pi kit in a tower configuration that's easy to build without using a table saw, a router, or any other expensive tools that most people don't own. You can build this speaker using a carpenter's square, a hand saw, a drill, and a screwdriver. A couple of 24" clamps help, but if you have an assistant to hold some panels in place you can get by without them.Now here's the secret to EZ: Many lumber sources stock 12" wide (they're really 11-1/4") mdf boards in 8' or 16' lengths. Mine stocks 16' lengths that they will cut to a managable length for you to carry. So every panel in this speaker is already cut to the EXACT WIDTH you will need to build the speakers! You only have to cut the correct lengths, which includes eight panels cut to 36", four panels cut to 12-3/4", plus a number of braces cut to about 1-1/2". The finished speaker is 11-14" wide by 12-1/2" deep; not exactly the golden ratio, but in spite of the close dimensions it will still sound MUCH better than anyhing you could get at Best Buy for $500. It's 95dB sensitive, and tube-friendly, and you can build a pair for about $200 total!I'm sitting at the computer listening to the EZ Towers playing for the first time with my Bottlehead Paramours driving them, and I like what I hear. A quick check with a test CD and Radio Shcack sound meter indicates flat in-rooom response down to 40hz. No they don't have the authority of the 3 Pi Theaters or the treble resolution of the ribbons in my line arrays, but if somebody told me these were the only speakers I could listen to for the rest of my life I wouldn't be at all unhappy.The link below includes step-by-step directions for building the enclosures. It's too detailed for casual reading, but that's intentional to provide all the information a novice will need to do this. So if you have been wanting to try one of those flea power SET amps, but you don't have suitably efficient speakers or the tools to build a pair from a kit, here's your opportunity.
The EZ As Pie Tower Speaker

Subject: Re: The EZ As Pie Tower Speaker
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 17:16:20 GMT
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Joined up with a nice GC for 80$ and man you are in audio heaven. Need a portable CD player also. And believe me when I tell you any one with two opposable thumbs can build this whole system with a couple of simple tools and a soldering iron. And there is room for upgrades as the skill level improves with experience.

Subject: Re: The EZ As Pie Tower Speaker
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 18:25:17 GMT
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Groovy!

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Subject: Re: The EZ As Pie Tower Speaker
Posted by Bill Epstein on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 23:04:32 GMT
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Good call. Somewhere in the archives are the towers I made for the 49 cent PE cones from #2 pine 2X6 and 2X8's just cut to length.Better yet you can find another post for 4 Pi Theatres made from 18" and 24" widths of laminated pine HD and Lowe's stock in 4' and 6' lengths. Imagine building 4 Pi's w/o a saw!

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Subject: Presized Lumber
Posted by FredT on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 23:37:58 GMT
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You're so right. Most people who would like to build a speaker kit are turned off by the challenge of cutting all the panels to the right width so they'll fit together reasonably well. Bob Brines told me about the mdf boards, which he tells me are also available in 16" width from some sources. Even if you have a good table saw like the Delta Commercial model I use it's still so much easier to trim a 12" or 16" pre cut board to the right width than to lift a heavy 4'X 8' mdf sheet onto the roller table and run it thru the saw. I like the idea of the laminated pine - that would look really nice with just a coat of varnish.

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Subject: Final Tuning
Posted by FredT on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 23:43:43 GMT
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Not much can be done here until they have some breakin time, but with the 3" long ports there's quite a bit of midbass. This is great for people who lsiten to classic rock and want a kickass speaker, but I listen mostly to jazz and classical plus some indie artists and prefer a lighter touch. I replaced the 3" ports with 5" ones, and with these the speakers sound a bit midbass shy. I suspect the right length lies somewhere between 3" and 5" but I don't plan to do any more experimenting until they have 50 hours or so on them. Anybody who builds these should order four ports so they'll have an extra pair to experiment with.

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Subject: Re: Presized Lumber
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 16 Feb 2006 00:16:51 GMT
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Places sell 12" 5/8ths shelving in 24/36/48" lengths. And you can get it already veneered. Is that what you mean?

Subject: Re: Final Tuning
Posted by akhilesh on Thu, 16 Feb 2006 01:17:30 GMT
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Great Link, Fred! Good service to the DIY community. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Presized Lumber
Posted by Bill Epstein on Thu, 16 Feb 2006 01:48:58 GMT
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This is actually solid, clear pine in full 3/4". Strips glued up. Looks like kinda' like bowling alley. Sold as table tops. I recall enuf for a Theatre 4 was just around $100. Glue it and nail it, no clamps needed.

Subject: Re: Presized Lumber
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 16 Feb 2006 11:29:52 GMT
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O'Kay; home depot has it. Then again you could get white formica sides if you wanted that retro look in the shelf planks.

Subject: Completed
Posted by FredT on Sat, 25 Feb 2006 18:55:02 GMT
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The speakers are completed and painted. Complete description at the link below