
Subject: Sprkman57 Got Me

Posted by [zincman](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 22:38:08 GMT

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Hello all; Just wanted to drop a quick couple lines to pass along some system info. Ron aka Sprkman57 has hooked me and definitely set me up with some great tuneage. First I need to thank Wayne for the Bottlehead build, very nice job, they are mine now. Ron set me up with Bottlehead Foreplay and Paramours. My source is a Cal Audio Labs DX-1 and speakers are Altec 416-16 with 802/811 horn, backloaded single drivers 8" telefunken and others. Also is pictured a small pair of homebrew technics single drivers (Absolute Killer Sound). The two black blobs on the floor are a pair of SE7591 mono's. My picture looks kind of like a junk yard set but I got to say it all sounds very good and can't thank Ron enough for FREE advise and some great equipment. if you have not meet him hook up. His house is a audio nut paradise with more stuff in one place than most audio stores. Anyway I hope to be more active on this board and throw in my two pennies worth when I feel brave. Thanks AllTim

<http://img207.echo.cx/my.php?image=img02885vq.jpg>

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me

Posted by [zincman](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 22:58:31 GMT

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Close shot of Bottlehead stuff

<http://img259.echo.cx/my.php?image=img02909re.jpg>

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 01:15:15 GMT

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Glad to see that Bottlehead gear went to a good home. The rest of your rig looks real cool too! It has an all-star lineup of components, so I know it sounds good.

Subject: Sprkman57 Got Me (and me)

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 01:44:56 GMT

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Tim, Just rolled in from Ron's house. Picked up the A7s (note to self: take U-Haul truck to Columbus next time.) I got some great pictures of Ron hauling cabs out his garage. Remember

that saying: a picture's worth a thousand words, well..... I'll get them up tomorrow. We need to get together and talk shop over a brew or two. I live in West Chester, which is about 30 min from Dayton. Ron also mentioned about trying to get some OH tube heads together for a listening tour. We could just meet at one person's house for a few hours for some tunes and talk. It would be very informal and no one would need to haul their gear around (like Ron could.).....Colin

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me (and me)
Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 09:01:40 GMT
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Can't wait to see all the hard work. Yeah we do need to hook up. Ohio tube heads seem to be a pretty good size group, time for a mini tube fest.

Subject: It's the least I could do
Posted by [sprkman57](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 10:38:53 GMT
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It makes me feel good to get others "hooked" in this hobby of tubes and horns. I still have way too much in my house and garage and encourage others to come and get some free cabinets and build your own. Yesterday when Colin came over for the A7 VOTT cabinets I actually saw some things that I forgot about in my garage. LOL Need some other folks to drive to Columbus, Ohio for a visit and help me unload some more cabinets. My end goal is to be able to use my basement for my audio system, instead of my tiny living room. Ron

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me
Posted by [Norris Wilson](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 12:11:52 GMT
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Hi zincman, It is nice to see that Ron helped you break into the high efficiency and vacuum tube audio world. Ron is a first class person, willing to help anyone who is intersted in audio and music, something he enjoys. I got some Philips AD5200M full range drivers from him, and they sound great in an open baffle and without crossovers, thanks Ron. Also, I know you will have many years of enjoyment now that Ron has helped you to get hooked into the world of audio neurosis, Welcome. Norris Wilson

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me
Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 12:35:02 GMT
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Wayne I have a very good foundation I think at this point. My only real sore spot is my gain for the Altecs using the Foreplay is a bit suspect. I had used a CJ PV2 with the Paramours and only had to use about 20% of my volume to achieve pretty decent sound levels. With the Paramours and Foreplay I use probably well over half to get the same levels. I am sure I could probably do something with the sweet whispers to improve that but it is over my head technically. But overall very pleasing sound on a low budget. Tim

Subject: Re: It's the least I could do
Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 12:35:55 GMT
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I will certainly do all I can to help with the clear out????????????

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me (and me)
Posted by [Bill Wassilak](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 13:21:50 GMT
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Colin, Did you get those Altec horns powder coated yet, I'd like to see a picture of them when you do. I bet they'll look sharp. Bill W.

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 13:42:25 GMT
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Your Foreplay already has "sweet whispers." That's why the volume knobs have detents - They're actually rotary switches instead of potentiometers. Your Foreplay is maxed out, having been upgraded with all the Bottlehead mods - C4S, stepped attenuators, gold plated connectors and Solen capacitors.

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me (and me)

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 14:14:47 GMT

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I actually wound up trading the 811s for Ron's 511s. I need to the 511s to go with the 500Hz Xover Ron threw in. Trading your 811 lenses was not my original intention (sorry), but it just happened to work out that way. I still plan on powder coating the 511 lenses. Also, the cabs have seen some use and really need to be restored. There are a lot of dings and corner chips in the cabs, but the cabs still have the original VOTT emblem on the sides. After they are filled and sanded, I'm going to call some local auto body shops and see what they would charge to paint. I also need to do some more research on this system to see what needs to be done to bring them back up to factory specs. Acquiring the A7s was just a stroke of good luck. My initial intention was to go with the Model 19s, but Ron had the parts just laying around and was willing to help out; so, it was an offer I could not refuse. I'll keep everybody up to date on the progress. This is going to be fun.....Colin

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me (and me)

Posted by [Bill Wassilak](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 14:21:10 GMT

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Cool, good trade, I always did like the sound of the A7's better than I did the 19's. You'll have a great sounding system when you get it going. Bill W.

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me

Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 14:53:56 GMT

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Yeah I thought that I had read some posts where the attenuation can be changed. I even thought about looking into the sweetest whispers to see if any additional gain might be realized. Don't get me wrong I get very good sound and levels, I am just not accustomed to using as much volume as I do to achieve it.

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me (and me)

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 15:29:22 GMT

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Like I said, it was not my intention to part with the 811s, but I just could not pass up Ron's offer. For someone who had never heard horns before, I sure went off the deep end.....Colin

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me
Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 21:55:58 GMT
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Thanks for the welcome mat. I started my audio love in 1975 as a salesman for a mid-fi shop, never new what I was missing all these years. Ron is indeed a great source for gear and info and spins a pretty good conversation. Although he sometimes speaks a speaker language that is foreign to me no the less still very educational.Tim

Subject: Re: Sprkman57 Got Me
Posted by [zincman](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 23:11:21 GMT
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Wayne just recieved a little insight from Paul Joppa regarding the gain/volume so I think my brain is all square on the subject. And again very nice build on the Bottlehead stuff. I took the cowards way out, too much work for me????

Subject: A7 has a bit morelife to it!
Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Sun, 29 May 2005 16:53:47 GMT
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I know Colin will like the A7 VOTT speakers as I have gotten a bit of what he looks for in a speaker system and he listens to music at a lower level than most. My recommendation to Colin was to get a 45 or 2A3(or lower wattage triode) amp for running this for best results. I can't wait to visit Colin and listen to the system when he is done.My opinion of Colin is that he is very meticulous and will have the system operating at its best potential.Now I have to get the home-made A7 VOTT cabinets out of the basement for Tim(zincman) and he can make a pair also.For someone wanting to make a close clone of the Model 19, I have a pair of Altec 1234 cabinets that would work well with some tweaking.Ron

Subject: Re: A7 has a bit morelife to it!
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Sun, 29 May 2005 18:03:22 GMT
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Here's what I've done so far:- Replaced the back access panel with 3/4" MDF.- Sealed the horn flair with clear Si caulk- Tuned the port- Made cabinet air tightThings left to do:- Mount the horn- Wire them up- Listen to tunesThings to do in the future- More internal bracing (maybe)- Fill in

areas beside the horn flair- Build low power PP or SE amp.....Colin
