Subject: In case people have not, please check out the review of a lowther based bass reflex driver on enjoyt
Posted by akhilesh on Wed, 31 Dec 2003 16:13:25 GMT
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Hi Folks, Another review that I found interesting was at:http://www.enjoythemusic.com/magazine/archives/April 2003, where they reviewd the Lowther 2.5 cu foot box speaker by classic audio. Given that there are such few reviews of single driver speakers, i thought it best to highlight all the ones I know of, and also ask others to share with us!thanx-akhilesh

Subject: Re: In case people have not, please check out the review of a lowther based bass reflex driver on en
Posted by JLM on Fri, 02 Jan 2004 11:33:45 GMT
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Yes, I've read that review (several times).David Dicks and his speakers came out of there smelling like yesterdays' diapers.I've heard his 2.5 cabinet with Fostex FE206E and it only sounded decent (although the driver was not broken in). Panels needed more bracing, bass was somewhat boomy and not extended (as you would expect from a single 8 inch driver with a low Qt of 0.18).Others have called the FE206E sound "cartoonish".But I also found a guy who has a Lowther based 2.5 that loves it (after futzing with set up issues).BTW, there are several single driver speaker professional reviews around. Four have been done for The Horn. Several more for Lothx and Omega speakers. And of course different several for Lowther based cabinet designs.

Subject: Re: In case people have not, please check out the review of a lowther based bass reflex driver on en
Posted by akhilesh on Fri, 02 Jan 2004 16:37:56 GMT
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I haven't heard any of the classic audio speakers, except one pair at Phil's house...and he uses the Fostex drivers recommended by Classic audio. I thought they sounded decent....I mean they were clearly not full ranges, and clearly not for large orchestral movements, but for what they are (and I understand Phil listens mainly to small acoustic arrangements) they were not bad. I suspect that if you try to test them as other speakers (meaning for rock, or pop, or complex musical arrangements) they will not be great. I built a pair of full ranges using very good vintage drivers, in much larger boxes (around 4 cu feet) and they have good bass, but even they are not my first choice to listen to for classical or rock music. However, they are nice for intimate jazz or acoustic type music. The argument made by several single driver hobbyists is that I personally don't know

if crossovers make such a great difference. My problem with 2 way designs is that often, most of the midrange and upper is handled by a $30 tweeter, so tonality and naturalness suffers. I would rather spend the bulk of the money in a good driver that is of decent size & construction, and that covers the listening spectrum all the way from upper bass to treble. I don't have a problem with supertweeters and or subwoofers, as long as they are properly matched. Just my opinion. thanx!-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: In case people have not, please check out the review of a lowther based bass reflex driver on en
Posted by jim denton on Mon, 05 Jan 2004 22:07:13 GMT
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Akhilesh, I jumped in and bought a pair of (daivd dicks) Fostex FE206E and got the plans for the 2.5 boxes as a place to get started in building something in bass reflex that is straightforward and simple on the build end---but with that said my next project will be something in a 2 way that has a good beginner X-over ---to compare to the Fostex's----and it may be a Fostex driver but that the general idea---dfon't think I will have them done by the 10th though Jim

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Subject: Recommendations for Fostex FE206E driver
Posted by akhilesh on Tue, 06 Jan 2004 20:13:51 GMT
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Hi Jim,I did some basic calcucations for this driver. IMHO, you should not do the big cabinet (2.5 ft^3). Based on my calculations, if you build a 1 cubic foot box (leave about 20% for carpet & braces) so build a box with a volume of 1.25 cubic feet, and have a vent in it of diameter 2.25 inches, with no port tubes needed, you will get MUCH better lower midrange. In the bigger box, the lower midrange will get eaten up, and you WILL hear a one note samba on the low end. Use 3/4 inch birch ply or MDF. You should get -3db at 60 Hz. You are NOT going to do any better with this driver, unless you are prepared to:a) listen to the one note samba & the lower mifrange suckoutb) Build a horn cabinet as ercommended by Fostex. IN that case you may get response down to whatever. If you do do the bass reflex, just get a suitable subwoofer if the bass bothers you.Hope this helps. -akhilesh

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Subject: This also works for the FE207E driver
Posted by DaveJ on Wed, 07 Jan 2004 11:52:09 GMT
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I can speak from experience that the Fostex FE207E works exteeeeeemly well in a ported box of

about 1 cubic foot. I have the driver mounted on the wide side of the enclosure, similar to Audio Note and Snell speakers. In this case the front baffle is 13"(w)x20"(h). I rear ported mine with a 2" diameter port. I'm still playing with the length for the best in-room sound. The front baffle is 3/4" baltic birch ply. The sides and rear baffle are 3/4" MDF, though I'm going to try 3/4" baltic birch on the rear also.These mate very well with 2A3 and 300B amps. Being somewhat of a cable sceptic, I was surprised how sensitive these were to different speaker cables though.DaveJ

Subject: Re: This also works for the FE207E driver
Posted by akhilesh on Wed, 07 Jan 2004 12:45:28 GMT
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HI Dave,I checked the paramteres of the Fostex 207E after your post, and they are VERY close to the 206E. Good to know that empirical evidence matches the model! Thanx for sharing your experience. -akhilesh

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Subject: Re: This also works for the FE207E driver
Posted by DaveJ on Wed, 07 Jan 2004 13:06:38 GMT
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Hi akhilesh,You're right, they are pretty close. I went with the 207E because of the slightly higher Qts and Qes values and the flatter frequency response in the 1k-10kHz region. Response rolls off above 12kHz but I haven't noticed this to be a problem.DaveJ

Subject: lenth of port for your FE207E
Posted by akhilesh on Wed, 07 Jan 2004 15:59:07 GMT
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Hi Dave,I did some quick calcuations for port size, and if you have a 2 inch port in a 1 ft^3 box, then for the Fostex 207E, an ideal port length would be 1.6 inches. Also, you are right, the 207E is a better choice becuase of increased Qts over the 206E, the bass is significantly better. The only way the 206E will be able to produce equivalent bass is the "one-note samba" design, which is shy peole have called some bass reflex implementations of the 206E boomy. Wonder if this port length of 1.6 inches works for you. Let us know!-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: lenth of port for your FE207E

Posted by DaveJ on Wed, 07 Jan 2004 16:58:52 GMT
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Hi akhilesh,Thanks for the port length calculation. I've been switching back and forth between a 2.75" and 0.75" (no tube, just wood thickness). The 0.75" sounds a bit thin and the 2.75" slighly exagerates some notes, so 1.6" may be a good compromise. I have some extra port tubes at home, so I'll give it a try.I should have the new baltic birch rear baffles mounted up this weekend. I'm curous as to the effect. Switching the front baffle from MDF to baltic birch was a step-up.I will report back with results soon.DaveJ

Subject: Re: lenth of port for your FE207E
Posted by IanJ on Sun, 01 Feb 2004 08:23:40 GMT
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Hi, I also bought (D.Dicks) 206 and 2.5 plans. Built one and am V disappointed with lack of bass.Have just begun to think about further tuning. If anyone has good info how to get bass out of them without resorting to more complication, size, expense etc, I would be very grateful. Cheers, Ian

Subject: Re: Recommendations for Fostex FE206E driver
Posted by jim denton on Wed, 04 Feb 2004 18:37:16 GMT
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Well, I'm not doing the bigger box as reccommended---I'm really into the Voight pipes as I have studied a bunch of guys making them and several have used 8" drivers of various brands---several are Lowther----and I bought this driver as it was taouted as a almost Lowther quality----but---all the Fostex spec's show it as horn type speaker---So you think a bookshelf box is best or should I find a horn desgin ???