
Subject: Post Shopping Advice

Posted by [s7on3d](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 16:18:49 GMT

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Ok, so after going around to a bunch of shops, I found a setup I REALLY like, but I don't think I can afford it. I need some help with that...So as far as an amp goes, I think I'm basically decided on a Harman-Kardon AVR 235. I know I said \$150, and Stereo, but I heard this amp as stereo, then as a surround amp, and it sounded so good... I think I've fallen in love with the extra lower-midrange in the H/Ks that gives a warmer feeling. I tried it with a bunch of speakers and after around 3 hours found a setup that fits me.I tried to find a pair of bookshelves with distinct treble, mids, and expecially good clean bass. I have decided that it just doesn't exist. The Bose 201s were my front-runners for a while (I know it's a sin around here, but they sounded good) thanks to their clear highs and VERY defined lows, even overtaking the 301s by miles. But, alas they REALLY lacked in mids. I tried a bunch of others, but nothing had the lows of the bose, or any better highs.Then I found the Infinity Beta 10s. These speakers have VERY clear, defined, beautiful highs and mids, but no bass whatsoever, so my only choice was to go towards a surround amp so I could add some bass with a subwoofer.We hooked it all up, then as a sub I connected the Earthquake Sub80. Together, the only thing I can say is WOW. Everything sounded amazing, from smooth Jazz to Classical. Fusion to Rock. At one point, I would have sworn that the Red Hot Chilli Peppers were playing right there in the room with me.Now for my qestion. As you can see, my budget has gone up, with the H/K at \$350, the Beta 10s at \$229 and the sub at \$250, the cost has more than doubled to \$830. The amp's a keeper. Too good to let it go, and my dad may be willing to pitch in since in the future it could become the home theater receiver for our house. I like the Beta 10s too much to let them go either. So the question is, how do I get a cheaper sub? I know absolutely nothing about subs, and I have no plans of pumping it up to full power (as is the custom among the local Rap and R&B fans). It's a very powerful sub at 250 watts, and honestly I don't think I need that much power. I hat subs that "boom", I want it to subtly add bass without giving any "boom-boom" grief. I want clean lows. VERY clean. Even Tight. Got any advice?

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 18:41:27 GMT

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Which classical piece did you use to audition this exemplary system?

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 19:26:32 GMT

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Hi, the \$250 for a sub is very cheap. In my experience, if you are happy with this system, they stay with it. It will be hard to get a sub under that that you like, though you can audition some at Circuit City or some other place, and may well find you prefer a cheaper sub to the \$250 one! I know Radio Shack has a \$100 or so sub. Some guitar stores have cheap subs as well. Jensen makes some good cheap active subs (I know: I use one connected to my TV that I got on eBay for \$20, that retailed for \$80). -akhilesh

Subject: Addendum

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 19:35:49 GMT

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I believe you are here for an honest opinion. So I will give it. O think you could do a lot better in terms of pure listening pleasure for the money. A tripath chip amp can be bought for \$99 (the TEAC) and you can get awesome speakers for \$400. There are many available. What you are buying, in my opinion, may give you short term satisfaction, but, may bore you after a while. It certainly won't move you, again in my opinion. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice

Posted by [s7on3d](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 19:43:02 GMT

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Beethoven's 5th and 9th Symphonies, Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, 1812 Overture, and 1st Piano concerto, Bizet's Carmen were the big classical pieces I checked.

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice

Posted by [s7on3d](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 19:48:49 GMT

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And I almost forgot, Bach's Tocatta and Fugue and Brandenburg Concerto No.3.

Subject: Re: Addendum

Posted by [s7on3d](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 19:51:01 GMT

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I haven't heard the Teac yet. Does it have the warmth of the H/K's? I've really fallen in love with the warm mid-rangy sound.

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 23:58:27 GMT
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Good Choices. Got any recommendations; could be Jazz also.

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice
Posted by [s7on3d](#) on Sat, 25 Jun 2005 01:43:13 GMT
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Recommendations for more music to try out a system, or just good music all 'round?

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 25 Jun 2005 02:14:27 GMT
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Stuff you like in the Jazz or Classical genre.

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice
Posted by [s7on3d](#) on Sat, 25 Jun 2005 11:36:29 GMT
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Classical:Wagner's Flight of the Valkyries, Beethoven's 5th (emperor) Piano Concerto, Bernstein's West Side Story, Schubert's 8th, Rimsky-Korsakov's Scherazade, Dvorak's 9th Symphony, Mozart's 40th Symphony, Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, Grieg Piano Concerto, Mahler's 1st and 2nd Symphonies, Stravinsky's Petrushka, Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and Nutcracker Suite, Vivaldi's 4 seasons and concerto for 4 violins, Dragonetti's Double Bass concerto, Bach's Cello suites.Jazz: I'll just give you a list of musicians / bands that I like.Marcus Miller, Mike Stern, Jaco Pastorius, Dizzie Gillespie, Miles Davis,Charlie Parker, Spyro Gyra, Kenny Burrell, B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Norah Jones' more Jazzy material, Aretha Franklin, Louis Armstrong, Charlie Haden, Oscar Peterson.More Modern Stuff:Led Zeppelin, Incubus, Beatles, Dire Straits, Eric Clapton, Jimi

Hendrix, John Williams, Lenny Kravitz, Oi Va Voi, Queen. That's most of my day-to-day playlist...
Tell me what you think.

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice
Posted by [guitarplayer](#) on Sat, 25 Jun 2005 11:39:52 GMT
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I agree with akilesh, the Teac is hard to beat at anywhere near the price. Mod it a little and it's really quite a good little amp. That amp and a pair of Wayne's speakers, or GR Research if you want something different, would really give a long term solution. I think Wayne has a finished speaker for \$350! Regards, Lee

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 25 Jun 2005 11:44:35 GMT
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Well; I think you have a well rounded approach and I enjoy most of your list, but I was looking more for individual recommendations of interesting music you might have come across that you don't find to be that well known. BTW I appreciate you taking the time to address this post. You seem to be knowledgeable and have an eclectic repertoire. I have Tom Harrells, "Wise Child", on the player. Gorgeous melodies interspersed with solid big band riffs.

Subject: Re: Addendum
Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Sat, 25 Jun 2005 20:14:20 GMT
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The TEAC is a lot cheaper. I'd buy the cheaper amp, and spend more on speakers. IF you want the warm sound, just connect a 2 ohm resistor in series with the TEAC and the speakers you use. In fact, try that with any of the maps you have auditioned. Let us know what you find. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Addendum
Posted by [s7on3d](#) on Sat, 25 Jun 2005 20:27:44 GMT
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How could I add a resistor in a store when auditioning the receivers?

Subject: Re: Addendum

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Sun, 26 Jun 2005 14:28:11 GMT

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Hi, Good point! The important thing is you are happy with what you have! I have never heard any of the equipment you heard, but again, the important thing is how it sounds to you! Have fun with it. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice

Posted by [Norris Wilson](#) on Mon, 27 Jun 2005 01:56:46 GMT

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Hi s7on3d, After looking on the NAD website and the Stereophile recommended components list in the October 2004 issue. You may want take a look at the NAD C320BEEE compact receiver and add it to your component list. The NAD C320BEE receiver, the Mission Beta 10's speakers that you mentioned earlier, along with a 10" Titanic MKIII subwoofer kit from parts Express should make for an enjoyable two channel system that will play classical music well.

<http://www.partsexpress.com/pe/showdetl.cfm?&DID=7&Partnumber=300-760> Madisound also, offers a decent entry level subwoofer kit that should work well with this system. Got to madisound at: www.madisound.com and look on their kit page. The Panasonic SAXR50 and XA55 are a few more receivers to check out on your search. <http://www.pioneer.com> As others have advised you already, it is up to you to decide which system sounds best. I personally like tube amplification, you can look on the used market at <http://www.audiogon.com> If you search hard enough, you may find a good system at a good price, but patients pays off. Good luck and happy hunting. Norris Wilson

http://www.nadelectronics.com/av_receivers/L70_framset.htm

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice

Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 27 Jun 2005 03:25:25 GMT

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Whoa nellies, That NAD is a bewt even if it is solid state. How many months rent is it?

Subject: NAD C320BEEE = \$399 (nt)
Posted by [Norris Wilson](#) on Mon, 27 Jun 2005 07:13:43 GMT
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NT

Subject: Re: NAD C320BEEE = \$399 (nt)
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 27 Jun 2005 07:18:38 GMT
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Could be worse.Could be better.

Subject: Re: Post Shopping Advice
Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Mon, 27 Jun 2005 10:09:29 GMT
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I'm sorry to be repetitive, but for \$200 less you can buy THX-approved (for whatever that's worth) powered monitors from a flagship company and achieve what you originally said your goals were.Just makes sense to me.
JBL Powered Monitors
