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Subject: Finished At Last

Posted by [FredT](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 20:10:29 GMT

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It took four months because of some unexpected interruptions, but I finally finished my Selah Audio XT-8 line arrays this week. Each enclosure has cherry veneer sides and satin black baffles, and houses eight 7" Vifa XT-18 series midwoofers and eight Fountek JP-2 ribbon tweeters. The enclosures are a bass reflex alignment with four 3" ports and are 72" high, 14" wide, 18" deep, 95dB sensitivity, 16 SET-friendly ohms impedance (12 ohms minimum), recommended amplifier power 3 to 300 watts:) If I can figure out how to move these big boys I'll take them to next year's GPAF. So many speakers, so little time. More information at <http://www.selahaudio.com/id52.html>  
XTended 8 Arrays

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Subject: Re: Finished At Last

Posted by [elektrartig](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 23:34:41 GMT

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Wow! Beautiful work! I doubt I could even make 72 inch cabinets. Congrats.

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Subject: Sweet!

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2005 03:40:14 GMT

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Those are gorgeous!

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Subject: Re: Finished At Last

Posted by [chris](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 00:31:31 GMT

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Fred- Very Impressive! I was looking to build the Eros speaker (much simpler & cost less). How do the Eros sound?- vs the Linus 2 (maybe the cheapest line array?) tia

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Subject: Re: Finished At Last

Posted by [lcholke](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 02:28:46 GMT

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Very, Very top of the line. And they look good also! Did you power weight the drivers? How do the xt-8s compare with the other other line arrays in your photo collection. Do they solve any problems the others had, or is the xt-8 mainly a step up in component quality?-Linc

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Subject: Re: Finished At Last

Posted by [FredT](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 11:29:59 GMT

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The drivers are wired in two groups of four-in-series for a nominal 16 ohm impedance, with no power tapering. The actual length of the array is about five feet, and you would ideally place a line array in a fairly large room with the listening position about 10' or more from the front of the speaker. Mine is an odd-shaped room that's about 21' wide by 25' deep, with the listening chair positioned so your ears are 13' from the fronts of the speakers. I haven't done the math, but at that distance the middle drivers are not much closer to your ears than the top and bottom drivers. If you were designing an 8' array like the larger Pipedreams and Epiphany arrays you probably would want to consider power tapering, but it's a toss-up at five feet. One advantage of not using power tapering is that the focus remains the same whether you're sitting or standing. With the tapered Linus array and FredArrays the focus changes noticeably when you stand. They do represent a significant step up in component quality. The Linus Arrays have \$20 woofers and \$25 tweeters; the XT8's have \$100 woofers and \$120 tweeters. The result is greater power handling capacity, which translates to greater dynamics when you crank up the power, greater bass extension, much better sounding midrange, and far greater treble resolution. I had built a pair of two-way speakers before (the Eros MKII) using the Vifa PL series woofers (\$70ea) and was impressed by the difference in bass and midrange clarity between the the PL series and the less expensive TC series woofers that are used in the Linus array. Very much like stepping up from a good jug wine to a vintner's reserve. And the XT series woofers in the XT8's are a small step above the PL. The Fountek ribbons are almost in a class by themselves. To my ears they are as good as the best fabric dome tweeters such as the Scan Speak Revelators (\$200+ ea) and the Magnepan 3.6 ribbon tweeters, plus they offer the sensitivity that's needed (98dB) to work in a line array.

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Subject: Re: Finished At Last

Posted by [FredT](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 11:38:58 GMT

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The Eros is a much better sounding speaker than the Linus. If my budget for the drivers and crossover parts were \$500-700 I wouldn't choose a line array. At that price point a two or three way using high quality drivers will sound better than a line array using inexpensive drivers. The Eros would be a good choice, or if you need a more sensitive speaker for use with a lower power amp the 3Pi or 4Pi would be ideal.

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Subject: 72 Inch Cabinets

Posted by [FredT](#) on Sat, 04 Jun 2005 11:43:22 GMT

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"I doubt I could even make 72 inch cabinets".Sure you could. Just build 4' mdf cabinets and leave them out in the rain. In a couple of days they will have swelled to 72".

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