
Subject: Hey Guys, Where Do We Want to Take this Forum?

Posted by [FredT](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 15:25:09 GMT

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As I read the last fifty or so messages on this forum I become concerred about the amount of energy that's being spent criticizing somebody and/or their products. I'm sure if I examined every post in every thread very carefully I might find one or two that violate the posting rules, and I could delete those posts, but that's not the role I want to play as facilitator. I believe it's important to keep the forum open to a variety of diverse opinions, where everybody can continue to post their opinions and offer their technical expertise without fear of reprisal. So I'll just tell you how I feel about all this: I feel like the AudioRoundTable Array Speakers forum is being hijacked by a very small number of people who have an agenda, and promoting that agenda is more important to them than keeping the discussion moving along in a positive direction. Here are two question everybody should answer for themselves: 1) Is this forum serving its purpose as the threads are now playing out, or should it take a more positive direction? 2) How can I best move it in the direction I would like to see it take? I'm not looking for responses to this post, just answer the two questions for yourself and act accordingly.

Subject: I PLEAD "Guilty" Fred

Posted by [chris](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 17:46:43 GMT

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I am UPSET with VMPS, but if you look through my posts, that is not the reason I am here at all. In the VMPS RM 40 thread, my anger got the best of me. I really was frustrated by these speakers, and it was inferred it was MY fault I couldn't get them sounding right. That made me even madder! VMPS certainly is not gonna tell the truth about these POS speakers, so WHO else but an ex VMPS owner, or perhaps a competitor who has familiarity with these drivers. The thread started off asking about the VMPS drivers. I wondered if THEY were the problem ? Let's be real Fred, the people here are unlikely to buy ANYTHING. They are builders and hobby people. If you are worried about "stepping on the toes" of commercial interests, SHUT the place down. I have been in this hobby 30 years, and almost ANY commercial product is considered a POS and fair game by some DIY guys. No matter how good value a product is, a DIY guy can always do it "better for less". An Audiophile will say "A Wilson is an awesome speaker" A DIY guy will say "The Wilson is a cheap POS that uses a 14 dollar Vifa metal dome" This IS a DIY forum, and I admire commercial guys for hanging out here like Danny Ritchie and Rick Craig. And, I WISH you didn't live in Texas Fred, or I would have bought your needles array, Vifa drivers and all.

Subject: Re: I PLEAD "Guilty" Fred

Posted by [FredT](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 19:55:19 GMT

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The purpose of your initial post in the thread, and this one too, appears to be to vent your feelings about VMPS. I don't question the validity of all you said, just that this kind of post always takes the conversation in a negative direction. I doubt that's what the "silent majority" of people on this forum want. It's certainly not what I want. You're welcome to stay and post on this forum, but take the negativity elsewhere.

Subject: Forgot to Mention

Posted by [FredT](#) on Fri, 09 May 2008 20:02:19 GMT

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The Needles was a Jim Griffin design. It used a relatively large number of small (3" I believe) high quality midwoofers with a single centrally located Aurum Cantus ribbon tweeter. It received very positive reviews at a DIY event where it was heard by other speaker builders. I've built a few "extreme-budget" arrays using a single centrally located tweeter, but for any array costing serious dollars my choice is always to buy the plans for a proven design by an expert like Jim, who has the knowledge, test equipment, and experienced ears needed to optimize a design. You pay a few dollars more, but you get a well designed speaker.

Subject: Re: Hey Guys, Where Do We Want to Take this Forum?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 10 May 2008 03:32:47 GMT

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We had this exact same trouble over on the Prosound forum late last year. There were some vocal critics of an equally vocal manufacturer, and the threads spiraled out of control, eventually going out to other websites. In the end, we deleted a bunch of posts that had some useful information in them, because they were just too ugly. In that case, the irony was that the critics didn't do anything wrong, initially. They simply pointed to measurements and shootout results, and asked a lot of uncomfortable questions. The manufacturer involved turned the threads into a pissing contest by mischaracterizing the data and challenging the critics. It's a useful defense tactic to move focus off oneself by challenging the credibility of the person asking the uncomfortable questions. It was painful to watch, because the innocent were right to question what they saw, but in the end, the manufacturer was able to upset them enough to turn things around on an emotional level. Let's let that be a lesson here. If there really is something wrong with a loudspeaker, let's not turn it into an attack of a company or an individual. We can discuss technical details without making things personal, can't we?

Subject: Re: I PLEAD "Guilty" Fred

Posted by [chris](#) on Sat, 10 May 2008 19:20:35 GMT

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Sorry Fred, I have a REAL bad taste in my mouth for VMPS. But you are correct, the VMPS RM 40's are LONG GONE. Time to look at other alternatives. BTW, I appreciate your honesty when you had the array for sale using Vifa Drivers. You said, "It sounds like a Vifa" That honesty impressed me, because I THOUGHT you could take a bunch of crap drivers and make them sound like magic in a line array. You taught me the line array, like any speaker, needs great drivers.

Subject: I Would Give Five Years Of MY Life

Posted by [chris](#) on Sat, 10 May 2008 19:30:17 GMT

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To actually SEE measurements of that speaker I USED to own. And, you are correct Wayne, it is not a good thing to turn things personal. But sometimes a Fish "stinks" from the head down, if you know what I mean ? I WISH I still had that speaker. Man, If I knew how things were gonna finally turn out, I would have went on a two stop trip to Texas. One, to have the speakers measured by Danny, and hear his stuff. Then over to Freds to see what he had for sale. I live near Roger Russell Wayne, he has a pair of prototype line arrays for sale, but I lack the ceiling height!!! I found some OLD Pioneer Horns Wayne from the 70's using the Alnico Mahnet Pioneer Horns !! Getting them this Thursday ! Tubes and Horns Wayne, getting little tube amp switch put in to switch to triode on the fly!

Subject: I think all audio forums have to work their way through this problem...

Posted by [Darkmoebius](#) on Sat, 10 May 2008 21:16:51 GMT

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It's a two-fold issue: 1) a few manufacturers will endlessly bicker amongst themselves in a continual pissing contest, and 2) some individuals see all "industry insiders" as shills and crooks no matter how helpful they have been. And cannot stop themselves from nit-picking industry types until they explode or leave. ~5-7 years ago, Audio Asylum had the regular participation of scores of industry designers, builders, researchers, owners, etc. Now, there are maybe 20 willing to weather the continual attacks and arguments. Many finally decided that participating became too personal and the PR damage began to outweigh the goodwill. Others actually got banned after having public meltdowns. And then, there were the real "shills" who actually used sock-puppet monikers to praise their own products. Members quickly sniffed out the fakes, held them up to public humiliation (as they deserved), and eventually ran them off. But, that also raised the level of suspicion against all industry types. Which directly bled over into another type of conflict between legitimately pleased customers of a particular manufacturer, fanatical followers, and skeptics. Any factual questioning of design principals or performance claims eventually dissolved into personal

attacks because owners took it as an attack on their favorite component. Then, hardcore fans felt the need to respond forcefully to every perceived nitpick and defend the honor of their favorite brand. And so it went, round and round. It's surprising how much bandwidth (and page space) few people can burn up bickering. Single threads ended up consuming entire pages.

Subject: Re: I think all audio forums have to work their way through this problem...

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 04:42:21 GMT

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The thing is, a website owner/admin has control of the site and therefore responsibility of its content. So the ultimate responsibility is theirs. For some reason, many people love controversy and infighting, so if the website admins want traffic, they probably won't do much to try and keep the peace, in fact, they may even actually fan the flames. That's the real problem with some audio websites, in my opinion.

Subject: Buying or Building, that is the real question....

Posted by [Lumpy](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 14:43:15 GMT

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While you didn't ask for a response, I think a decision might be considered as to whether this is a forum about buying manufacturer built speakers or about DIYing your own line array speaker systems. Most of the discussion over time has been about building them oneself. Only recently has the discussion turned to buying someone's already manufactured or pre-manufactured kit. Its a valid discussion either way, but each choice will have a different set of interested posters. If you are the moderator then you should encourage the participation in either individuals who have already built their own systems from scratch, or manufacturers who are trying to sell their wares to the speaker BUYING rather than speaker BUILDING public. The devolving of the forum has happened around these two topic possibilities.

Subject: They conflict

Posted by [Lumpy](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 17:35:29 GMT

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The builder of an array that is DIY, is often going to use techniques of design that are way too expensive than the manufacturer. But the manufacturer is likely to use individual raw speakers which are way more expensive than the average DIYer. Herein lies essential conflict. The DIYer wants to believe that s/he has a quality system, and the manufacturer doesn't want the buying public to think that they can actually build a quality system for less. As long as both are considered

an essential part of the forum, they will be at each others throats all the time. This is especially the case with arrays since they take very very long for the DIYer to build.Its a further decision that any moderator here must consider.

Subject: Talk About Sock Puppets, LOL
Posted by [chris](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 20:59:59 GMT
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You ain't kidding about AA and some other forums.I DARED to challenge a manufacturer once, and next thing I knew, I was facing "attack" from 5 "different" people.Tuns out, these sock puppets we ALL one manufacturer using different ISP's/Computers, LOL

Subject: Re: Forgot to Mention
Posted by [chris](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 21:01:32 GMT
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Agreed Fred!

Subject: Conflict organized by the Moderator
Posted by [Lumpy](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 21:54:21 GMT
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This is exactly what I was talking about above, and what Wayne suggested was the way of things.This forum is becoming a refuge for manufacturers, not one for DIYers. The DIYers will leave and the manufacturers will stay, and the only purpose will be to display the manufacturer's products.By having the moderator say: ".....my choice is always to buy the plans for a proven design by an expert like Jim, who has the knowledge, test equipment, and experienced ears needed to optimize a design. You pay a few dollars more, but you get a well designed speaker," you are clearly implying that someone who DIY's an array couldn't possibly have a well designed speaker.Clearly, what the moderator's direction is, is to center discussion on the proven designs of certain manufacturers. This will drive the discussion away, and the DIYer's away.Since I am a DIYer, it sure is driving me away.Its all about what you want. You've made it pretty clear what you want, FredT.Lumpy

Subject: That's not the way I interpeted his response....

Posted by [Darkmoebius](#) on Mon, 12 May 2008 06:33:46 GMT

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That quote simply stated his own personal preference for building a speaker, not the the type discourse on the website.

Subject: This is not the place for me...

Posted by [Lumpy](#) on Mon, 12 May 2008 12:54:18 GMT

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Moderators don't have personal responses. When a moderator speaks, its as if they are E.F, Hutton.What Fred T. says..... Even if it is his personal preference, it still starts a range war, or sends DIYers away. If he wants a forum which emphasizes the manufacturers, then that's the way to go. If he wants a forum that emphasizes the DIYer's then he must not put a bias on how much better the manufacturer products are.Its the way of it. I've been here only a short time, but I've think I've had enough. This is clearly a manufacturer forum even if it implies that its a DIYer. Its not.Whose doing most of the talking of late? I guess it will be "Goodbye and Good Riddance", huh?Bye now!Lumpy

Subject: If you keep the discussion technical,

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 12 May 2008 17:19:03 GMT

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It doesn't matter to me whether the person I am talking with is a professional designer or a hobbyist. If they have an understanding of audio issues and have good ideas and things to say, what does it matter?Some people like to talk about various commercially available products. Some like to talk about industry news. Some like to talk about DIY projects. All are fine as long as discourse is civil. The thing I personally prefer is discussion of technologies, design principles, etc. By sticking with the facts, design ideas, mathematical models and measurement data, you can hope to have a meaningful conversation without a lot of useless bickering about opinions. But when you start calling people out by name and making ad hominem comments, then you are sure to start a fight.There is no reason to do this. You don't have to call Fred out on the mat. He has done a lot of DIY projects. Most of his audio is DIY, and a lot of it is his own creations. Even when he gets a kit or finished design, he tends to modify it to see how he can improve on it. So to say he is guiding this forum towards favoring manufacturers is just not true.Bring up a purely technical discussion and see what happens rather than pointing the finger at someone and making a case against them, personally.Just for a second, I'd like to look at the behavior of manufacturers verses non-manufacturers on internet discussion boards. I'm not including manufacturers that drop a single post in somewhere, perhaps a public statement or an advertisement. That is clearly business oriented, and I don't consider that kind of behavior as "participation" on discussion boards. What I'm talking about are people that regularly post.Of

those that regularly post, I've seen both pros and hobbyists get into ego-driven arguments. That's where the real problem lies, in my opinion. It isn't profit motive. It's an alpha male thing. Both hobbyists and professional designers alike are equally represented in that kind of behavior. You'll see just as many DIY'ers that want to be big shots as you'll see pros. You'll see it from all educational backgrounds too, from guys with a PhD in acoustics to mechanical or electrical engineers to high school dropouts. So it isn't based on background either. It's a personality trait, in my opinion, that drives people to try to be seen as "The Ultimate Authority" in audio and to get into heated arguments on audio discussion boards. Go to any audio forum and you'll find two or three hobbyists that are always in fights. They're ego driven. You'll also see two or three pros that are arrogant and unyielding, also always in fights. If they were truly profit oriented, they wouldn't act like that because it rarely wins friends and brings in business. They are driven by ego, pure and simple. So I don't believe "the problem" has anything at all to do with a conflict of priorities between hobbyist vs. manufacturers. What I see as the problem is the actions of certain individuals - pro and hobbyists alike - that, having a certain department, will try to make the case that whatever they are focused on right now is the most important thing in the world, all should listen and any criticism should be immediately smashed, naysayers permanently banned from discussion and branded as idiots and scoundrels. That ain't a profit motive, it's an alpha male thing, a problem of control freaks.

Subject: Consider this:
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 12 May 2008 22:08:49 GMT
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If you keep the discussion technical...

Subject: Re: If you keep the discussion technical,
Posted by [mediafreak](#) on Tue, 13 May 2008 15:01:53 GMT
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Well spoken mr. Wayne Parham; and I fully agree. Most of the well known names are "ego driven", but I like it this way. If I have a question like "would you prefer a NEO3 or NEO8 in a 2 way array"? It would be difficult for some "array lovers" to answer because they have built a system with one of the NEO's. I understand the conflict for some, and am just grateful that some will answer my question. It would be difficult for a DIY to answer because they have normally not been listening to both systems. Sooo ...Greatful THANKS to all you more or less ego driven wonderfully people that are willing to use time to share your experience with others - DIY or not - I am just grateful!Mediafreak

Subject: Re: Hey Guys, Where Do We Want to Take this Forum?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 13 May 2008 17:55:21 GMT

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>>Hey Guys, Where Do We Want to Take this Forum?There is no real problem here. Any forum/thread with a line arraytopic doesn't get as much attention as ordinary speaker designsbecause it's an advanced project that few undertake. Any flamewars seen here seem very mild compared to what otherthreads manifest and they quickly die.You can only make things worse if you try to moderate a topic thatis already low in traffic.

Subject: Ego Driven Manufacturers And DIY People
Posted by [chris](#) on Tue, 13 May 2008 17:56:13 GMT

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I USED to breed Dobermans.My Dogs were from Eastern European Bloodlines.I became "Kennel blind" because my Dogs were "The Best", LOLMany Manufacturers BELIEVE strongly in what they are doing.Some Manufactures make chit products too.One has to wonder if they are ripping us off ITENTIONALLY, or out of sheer ignorance ?I LIKE strong beliefs, and those willing to defend them.Our Country was built on vigorous debate.Let the Moderators keep that in mind ?

Subject: Maybe add "discuss with the Mfgr" a-la AVS Forum
Posted by [brucemck2](#) on Wed, 14 May 2008 17:23:14 GMT

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One of the things I've really enjoyed on several AVS Forum boards is when a discussion thread revolves around a particular manufacturer. For example there are terrific Audyssey and D2 threads that have that character, and there was a nice Q&A over several days with the guy that leads Krell. The Moderators keep the anti mfg flames out of those threads. For example, not once have I seen an Audyssey poster flame a D2 room correction poster, or vice versa. It's a nice way of having an intelligent ongoing dialogue with an intelligent manufacturer, while keeping the manufacturer vs. manufacturer diatribes down.

Subject: Re:no real problem here
Posted by [lcholke](#) on Wed, 14 May 2008 19:04:10 GMT

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I have not posted much, but I still check-in once a week. A new flurry of posts will come when a few people "discover" line arrays and need help building one.-Linc

Subject: Re: I PLEAD "Guilty" Fred
Posted by [Rick Craig](#) on Wed, 14 May 2008 23:01:29 GMT
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Chris, The RM40 isn't even an array so why would you post a rant like that here anyway?

Subject: Great idea!!!!.....nt
Posted by [Darkmoebius](#) on Thu, 15 May 2008 06:06:37 GMT
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nt

Subject: Oops, posted that to the wrong response...nt
Posted by [Darkmoebius](#) on Thu, 15 May 2008 06:10:50 GMT
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nt

Subject: Re: Hey Guys, Where Do We Want to Take this Forum?
Posted by [Rick Craig](#) on Thu, 15 May 2008 07:37:36 GMT
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Being in the industry I understand that there will always be people who think I have an agenda when I post here. But consider this - if I talk about Selah Audio products I'm discussing parts that anyone here can buy from a distributor such as Madisound or Parts Express. I receive emails and calls on a regular basis asking for help and have given away a great deal of free advice.

Subject: Re: If you keep the discussion technical,
Posted by [Rick Craig](#) on Thu, 15 May 2008 07:51:34 GMT
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In my case it's really not ego; in fact, I really hate arrogant and condescending attitudes. I don't always have to be "right" but I do have a low tolerance for BS and discussions not based on fact.

Arrays are inherently very complex and any real discussion is going to generate differences of opinion. Like any speaker discussion there will be white, gray, and black areas.

Subject: Re: If you keep the discussion technical,
Posted by [mediafreak](#) on Thu, 15 May 2008 11:44:03 GMT

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I guess 99% of all people do not like "arrogant and condescending attitudes", but this is also not directly what I am talking about – sorry for the misunderstanding concerning "ego". Ego ("me" or "I") believes in my self, and knows my opinions will make the world better. Ego = "I know what is the best sound for me because I have done some investigations + listening etc." Ego = "I want others to feel the same because I like to guide others" Ego = "this is my contribution to a better world – it makes me feel good to guide others to a better sound." Ego = "It is always wonderful if one of the others well known members in the forum will agree that I have one of the best insights in building speakers". Ego driven people that have some kind of respect for others will not be too arrogant. I admit that I am Ego driven. I am thinking (I can never be sure) of you Rick Craig as a person with a clear Ego and with a deep respect for others opinions; because you write like you know what you are talking about. In my opinion it is mostly boring to read what non ego driven people are writing, because they are always indirectly asking the reader what they are thinking. Rick C.: I don't always have to be "right" but I do have a low tolerance for BS and discussions not based on fact. Mediafreak: So is it also for me. My ego accepts to be "wrong" but does not like it; and I have clear opinions (because I know it is best for ME and OTHERS = strong ego)- like low tolerance for those that will not respect this forums rules and intensions. Mediafreak

Subject: VMPS Says It IS a Line Array - It MUST Be So ?
Posted by [chris](#) on Fri, 16 May 2008 03:16:20 GMT

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I mean Brian from VMPS wouldn't LIE to us Rick, right ? Here is what he has to say ""There are three ways to operate the RM 40, so-called because of its 40 inch vertical ribbon mid/tweeter array. The first is full range, with a single amplifier as a source. The system presents a steady 4 Ohm load, resistive above 166Hz, with 90dB/1W sensitivity and enormous output and dynamic range. Second, more ambitious audiophiles can easily switch the system to the biamp/biwire configuration and run a separate bass amp through the speaker's passive bass and mid/treble crossovers which, by the way, consist of all premium parts such as Axon polypropylene caps and hi-Q Erse 14 gauge laminated core inductors. The third option is biamping with the passive bass crossover removed, an outboard 24 dB/octave electronic crossover driving the separate bass amp, and a second amp running the ribbon panels through their builtin 6 and 12 dB filters""
