Subject: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by lon on Thu, 01 Dec 2005 04:19:30 GMT
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While I'm appreciative that Ed Dell needs out support in subscriptionsto just about the only magazine of it's kind.But I was glancing at the index for the completed year of 2005.Amplifiers were well represented in article content.But speakers were not. Even the speaker articles when seen in reviewhad little how-to-build content with the exception of Bill Fitzmauriceand a few others.For this kind of content, I cannot see how I could resubmit mysubscription. This is disappointing because aX was the magazinethat sparked my interest in hand crafted audio.

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 01 Dec 2005 15:17:30 GMT
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That's too bad. Looks like there really isn't any audio magazine anymore.Glad we have this website.

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by colinhester on Thu, 01 Dec 2005 18:15:01 GMT
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What are you talking about? A couple of issues ago a guy took a bunch of Parts Express NSBs and mounted them vertically in a box. This was such a novel concept that I think it might just catch on and be something really big. Since the author did not say it, I will. I hereby coin the term "line array" for this type of speaker. Yeap folks, you heard it here first.OK, sarcasm off.aX is just not my cup-o-tea anymore. I hate to let my subscription run out, but I just don't find it enjoyable anymore.I'm thinking of picking up the set of Audiocraft reprints. Have you ever seen an issue? Worth getting?.....Colin
http://www.audioxpress.com/bksprods/books/lac1.htm

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by lon on Thu, 01 Dec 2005 19:27:33 GMT
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Yes, when this book/books was released I asked my library topurchase but they didn't make it an acquisition.IIRC Ed Dell was going to make the whole history of Speakerbuilder, Audio Amateur

and Glass Audio availableon the net-- maybe for a subscription fee for research orsome plan like that: scan all the content and properlyindex it. I'm sure that there's a wealth of stuff inthe back issues. I like paper mags myself and find going over print articles for builds much easier thanhaving my brain addled by hyperlinks.There should be a Fine Woodworking mag for speakerbuilders. But the depth of interest is not there to make a publishing venturesucceed.Are there publications of this type in Europe or Japan? Alanguage problem would certainly exist, but the print formatis still superior to googling for how-to articles inparticular.I don't believe that handcrafted audio is a completely dyingart. There are new components being introduced and new designs based on solid reproduceable theory being done allthe time. Plus there's the ability to accurately reproducedesigns using the technology that is available now. I showedthe Layertone CNC link a while back. Mr. Layertone uses aCNC machine to build up layers for backhorn cabinets. This combined with the design skill of an audio engineer has given birth to a new technique.Elsewhere there has been new information on the photographictechnology which would allow circuit boards to be photographicalyetched and printed in a device which looks like a photoprinter.Such customized micro design combined with desktop computingprograms is a new paradigm for the advancement of the art and engineering of audio.For me, the DIY world is about doing more with less. The little ad copy that remains in audioXpress features thingslike 4 ft audiocables for $600. This is the old elitist audioparadigm which says if it's good it should cost a lot and ifit's better it should be unaffordable for all but the few.The Sonic Impact is an example of the new paradigm over the old. That amp (for all accounts) gives great sound, runson little power which is ideal for playback of digitized files,has been modded and customized (or can be by replacing the plastic shell) and is very inexpensive. The Sonic Impact wassold out at retailers such as Target, Parts Express and Buy.combut now is back in availablility again. I believe the bulkof the purchasers were audio enthusiasts who found out aboutit from places like this forum. Far as I know, the Sonic Impacthas never been in aX.All I can attribute this to is a disconnect between the publishing world and internet content. There should be another way.

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 02 Dec 2005 00:21:02 GMT
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I bought a Sonic Impact amp and listened to it for some time. It does a strange thing in that it compresses the signal at anything over a whisper and sounds very strained and tone-shifts at any thing around conversational volume. At first it sounded like a panacea for expensive equipment but over time it has not held up.I used it with very efficient speakers and some not so efficient. The small monitors I have are rated 94 db so I don't think the problem lies in a mis-match. Unfortuneately it seems there are no free lunches in audio. The Gainclone is a much better sounding amp but after the full treatment it too becomes a little pricey. I'm since returned to tubes and looks like that is still the way to go.Too bad tubes are all getting so expensive.

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by Martin on Fri, 02 Dec 2005 00:41:07 GMT

"aX is just not my cup-o-tea anymore. I hate to let my subscription run out, but I just don't find it enjoyable anymore."My subscription expires this month. I thought long and hard about not renewing but eventually signed up for another year. I made my wife write the check. I don't know why I renewed, other then I have every issue of Speaker Builder which means I have been reading this magazine for almost 25 years. Momentum. It gets more disappointing with every issue and takes less then an hour to read. I don't see it continuing much longer. I remember when SpeakerBuilder was my best source of information and Audio Amateur/Old Colony was the place I ordered classic texts. Maybe I won't have to make the tough decision next year if they just go under.Martin

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by lon on Fri, 02 Dec 2005 22:05:27 GMT

my hearing is too keen for my own good. With tubes I'd be afraidI'd have to "hum along with them" just being on.On the Sinuc Impact front I got fro a friend as a Christmas gift.As he plays with it, I'll learn more.I dunno. I'll be going to the theatre tonight as staff forThe Nutcracker. When I usher for those shows as a volunteerI try to listen for that large theater effect and how anyonesitting in a house could reproduce it. It's all over withlittle pin pointing and is effectively screwed by the housespeakers above and the orchestra pit below. But that is a _live_ show.The Sonic Impact should be a good experiment to use withcomputer files.One thing I've wondered about is why no SACD fileshares.

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 03 Dec 2005 12:38:50 GMT

Regarding the reproduction of theatre ambience I read once that you should not expect that a recording of a Steinway Grand Piano playing on your stereo would sound any different than it would if that piano was playing in your living room. If you can imagine the overload that instrument would produce playing in such a small space then picture a full orchestra sitting in your house.Thats a good use for the Sonic T-Amp as a computor system since it sounds worlds better than the standard computor fare.I don't know about SACD; maybe because there are no programs as yet to read SACD to the soundcards on the computor?

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions

Posted by lon on Sat, 03 Dec 2005 14:40:28 GMT
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I never had one of those little box setups and frankly I do notlike the sounds computers make so I turn them off.But now with streaming audio for news picking up some steamand the fact that I now have a new but modest computer buildabout 6 times faster than what I was using It seems likea good experiment.Building speakers got me interested in high efficiency systemsto use low power with larger boxes.I still have this thing about having the audio source "too close"and prefer nearfields that aren't _real_ near.There is something out called mp4 I think and so digitizedaudio standards could be improving.To your point, the MLTLs I built from a good plan give thesound of an intimate guitar solo such as Martin Taylorthat's right in the room.There's also listening to music from broadcast late atnight when you can be startled by a sound-- like there'ssomeone in the room with you. This is not concentratedlistening of course, but having the background music grab yourattention because of the subtleness of the quality.

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 03 Dec 2005 19:30:07 GMT
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Martin Taylor; good muscician; anything in particular? Late at night listening; some say the quality is better due to cleaner line voltage from less use at that time of day.Don't get me wrong on the Sonic; it's a damned good sound for 30$; but it isn't the giant killer they originally said it was in my opinion, and the faults are not those you can overlook.Sort of like trying to voice loudspeakers using a portable CD player.I like the class A SS amp that Nelson Pass wrote about in this months AE.It sounds similar to the old threshold class A amps from the 70's. Cheap to build also.So; now that you have a better and faster computor what will you be doing musically; a better soundcard like the Creative hot rod models?

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by lon on Sat, 03 Dec 2005 20:48:11 GMT
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I hear Martin Taylor on the Parlocha show and make airchecks.These airchecks from over the air radio turn out pretty good.Something like MT I can run in mono to eliminate any lineproblems from noise. His version of "They Can't Take ThatAway From Me" was like the first thing I heard on my firstset of full range speaks: Fostex FE127e. It's a spectacularrecording for hearing string decay, finger glides on chord changes.I guess it's what's called "being fast" as aspeaker setup.This new board has AC'97 whatever that means. If I could get ridof the "stuttering problem" that I've noticed on some audiostreams for news like Democracy Now, the on board sound wouldprob'ly be fine through my Yamaha RP U100 or the Sonic Impact,if I ever get one for myself.For soundcards there;s a lot of high end product for musiciansbeginning with the M-Audio line and going up into

the moreexpensive flavors.I use the site at the link below to select my second audio\card which was a Turtle Beach Santa Cruz. First one was a cheapie fromPhilips. A good place to get tips on digital audio is from the Alsa listserv. Alsa is a standard for Linux and musicians areon there talking about the techical aspect of audio. There you can get the lowdown on sound card hardware.Alsa mail list: [http://www.alsa-project.org/mailing-lists.php]
PC AV Tech Arnie Kruger

Subject: Re: For discussion: audioXpress subscriptions
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 03 Dec 2005 23:45:14 GMT
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Say; thats a nice link Lon; thanks. Not the usual thing but a little more interesting. I am going to go read some more now as it is exactly what I was looking for.
