
Subject: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?
Posted by [lon](#) on Tue, 20 Dec 2005 03:50:53 GMT
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New issue of AudioXpress came today. There was one feature on the Sonic Impact t-amp and cardboard speakers which I'm glad to report was a rave up. This makes me wonder if I should truly let my subscription lapse. I wind up coming back when I've done it before. There are damned few construction articles though. If the magazine is going to continue to be little more than a pamphlet, then the subscription price should drop. That _and_ go bi-monthly or something with a better representation of the speaker building hobby. After all Speakerbuilder was my entry point for the present publication.

Subject: Re: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 20 Dec 2005 15:20:36 GMT
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Maybe, but I think the infatuation with the T-amp is purely driven by herd instinct. Not that the product is good or bad, I'll leave that part of the discussion alone. But it seems like the little T-amp is the recent darling topic and to write about it right now is wholly predictable.

Subject: Re: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?
Posted by [lon](#) on Thu, 22 Dec 2005 03:58:18 GMT
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I'd have to say that last time I renewed my subscription on faith and as a gesture of support. But I don't see me subscribing for that reason year after year indefinitely.

Subject: Re: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 22 Dec 2005 04:42:06 GMT
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What would you like to see aX publish? I always thought they should do something similar to what we did in the Group Build forum with Guinevere. Start with a very basic design (amp, pre or speaker), build and analyze to the nth degree - go through all the math, parts selection and layout. I suspect there are a lot of wanna-be builders (myself included) that would benefit from this type of approach.....Colin

Subject: Re: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?
Posted by [lon](#) on Thu, 22 Dec 2005 18:36:02 GMT
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For that kind treatment I recently discovered something on DIY audiocalled the reference project. It's a thread that's been going on a year and takes some time to read (500 plus posts.) They began discussing drivers and parameters.. one being that standard boards would be used for ease of construction. The FE127e by Fostex was selected and (though I have not read the whole thread) several projects were built going through all the steps of testing and construction. Completed designs.. and the final one I think... is a backhorn fairly compact and using standard board widths. Through it's long history, AudioXpress has likely shown all the possible workwork techniques and so on for it's various stories in the magazine. But no one has all 30 years worth of them. Some features like Darcey Skaggs tweaks for dvd players and tv sets to improve performance are interesting. Bill Fitzmaurice's projects are always fascinating to view (but daunting to build.) The Nelson Pass 'kleinhorn' seemed like an exotic exercise with no practicality at all. to answer your question, I do not recall that an actual step by step use of testing software like the CLIO setup was ever actually fully done. A nice noob version of "How To Measure Speaker Parameters With Cheap Gear and a Computer" would be good. I heard a good quote that may apply here. It was in reference to NSA snooping using the vacuum cleaner approach of spying on everyone: "The logic of this approach to finding a needle in a haystack is to add more hay." Though there may be ways to 'google' the best way to learn something like speaker testing and that seems to be the panacea whenever a novice question is brought up I no longer have any trust or faith in doing web searches to solve problems. There is plenty of hay out there. :-/

Subject: Re: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 24 Dec 2005 15:47:56 GMT
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Touche'; the web has reached critical mass of misinformation and the saddest part is people with out the desire to actually think through problems on their own use it as a surrogate brain. Now instead of having opinions carefully formed;... people have web-sites easily refuted. The prospect that this type of behaviour will result in folks becoming more and more easily manipulated and less able to actually puzzle out and form a position is the drawback. Personal experience is becoming moribund as a reference because you always get some nit-wit useless website thrown in your face instead of someone's actual life experience and somehow people believe that has an integrity more valuable than your years of studying life. They defy their own observances and subjugate their own opinions to some other individual. Sad. I see the parallel to what you are saying in every walk of life now; audio internet is just a metaphor for all the other internet experiences.

Subject: Re: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?

Posted by [lon](#) on Sun, 25 Dec 2005 00:50:05 GMT

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I can't say that I picked up on the hobby of speakerbuilding from the net. My first contact with new speaker designs not found in kits was from audioXpress-- or Speakerbuilder magback in those days. But I've maintained the interest through groups like this and Full Range Driver Forum and AudioDIY (much less so with that one.) From the early days of Usenet and email I always felt there was the possibility of community with these computing devices. I was not disappointed in the early days for having found a few Usenet innovators, one of whom made a newsgroup called alt.fifty-plus.friends. I cite that because there was genuine community there-- and of an international nature. For the ones in extreme age and housebound it was and is their virtual home.

I have lost touch with that but it's still there. Far as hard information goes, if it weren't for streaming audio to listen to www.pacifica.org, Democracy Now and Flashpoints I would feel truly deprived and thrown back into the netherworld of network news rather than alternate views which give a broader picture of opinion. But to your point, I care nothing for so-called blogs. The information I seek comes from actual authors at the sources mentioned and also the Progressive press. Here at ART and a few other spots the topic stays focussed pretty much and the casual discussions that develop around these 'general and music' topics are quite often a way of learning something new. Regards search engines, what is needed is an open source coded search program not involved with the adwords concept of Google which allow a more legitimate and time consuming and visually fatiguing way of getting answers to things. It works pretty well in speaker discussions. But in Linux...don't get me started.

Subject: Re: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?

Posted by [Grant Marshall](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 01:45:03 GMT

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Hi Wayne. Just wondering if you've heard one of the T-amps yet and if you have what you thought of it? They have the Super T-amp now which provides better connectors and a more solid case at \$139 bucks. http://www.si-technologies.com/frontEnd/cm_productDetail.jsp?productID=35 That "herd instinct". Is it sort of like those SET guys ;-). I hope Christmas was good. Grant.

Subject: Re: Has Ed Dell redeemed himself?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 02:33:35 GMT

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I've heard the T-amp and wasn't that impressed. It isn't that it's bad, it's just that I don't think it is good either. Sounds to me like one of the cheap chip amps that generates 10% THD. I've heard better. Some chip amps are actually excellent, but the T-amp is just so-so in my opinion.
