Subject: JBL Subwoofer
Posted by Kameena on Thu, 19 Mar 2009 04:58:10 GMT
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Hey everyone,I have a powered JBL subwoofer that's part of my home theater setup. Recently, however, it's been making machine gun noises when turned on.I can let it blast a few times (10 to 15 times) until it stops, and then it works fine for like 20 minutes but automatically shuts off when it's had enough.I've only done that twice, and am afraid to use it and ruin it now.Does anyone know why it's doing that, or what I can do?

Subject: Re: JBL Subwoofer
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 19 Mar 2009 16:18:06 GMT
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Sounds like it's motorboating. If the power suply filter capacitors have become weak, this can happen. Basically what happens is the power supply fluxuates enough to cause a feedback loop. When power is first applied, the PS caps charge but the load rapidly depletes them enough to shut down the amp. The caps start to charge again, turning the amp back on but the load quickly discharge the caps and the cycle repeats. After awhile, the leaky electrolytic caps begin to work enough to hold a charge and keep the amp on, but just barely.If that's what's happening, you can measure this with a scope across the power supply capacitors. Might be worth just replacing all the large electrolytic capacitors in the amplifier to see if that fixes the problem. I guess it depends how much the subwoofer is worth to you whether you should attempt the fix or simply replace the whole unit.

Subject: Re: JBL Subwoofer
Posted by Kameena on Thu, 19 Mar 2009 17:50:10 GMT
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So.... I don't know how I can fix it or how much it would cost to take to someone.Is it bad to turn it on, let it 'motorboat' and then use it? How much longer 'till she dies?!

Subject: Re: JBL Subwoofer
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 20 Mar 2009 16:25:35 GMT
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There's no telling how long it will last. May last forever that way. It's sort of like turning it on and

off again repeatedly - which isn't good, but may not kill it. Like I said, I'd swap the electrolytics and see if that didn't help. They don't cost much so it's an inexpensive fix.