
Subject: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 22 Dec 2004 21:44:14 GMT
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After just glancing at all the new posts in here, Group Build must be heating up. It looks to me a bit like things I've seen in Linuxdevelopment with lots of cooks and who knows how much broth. Anyway. Way back when the reason I started on the speakerbuildinghobby was to make the most effective sound for monitoringand creating digitized sound files from older media. But the thing that never gets answered-- at least satisfactorilyfor me-- is how to plug directly from soundcard to speaks. It would be the ability to yank out those little desktop jobs and plug in some good ones for listening in the near field. The belies (?) the idea that you would hook up a standard amp or receiver to get the needed power for standard audioequipment (even high efficiency, but that might be another angle. The snazziest desktop stuff I've seen was from Swan's. Way too expensive and still does not solve the plug (into the soundcard) and play issue. I always thought the problem could be solved by powered speakers using gain clones so my question in this Group Build forum is how to make a product to solve this dilemma. Other thing that just occurred to me was some sort of breakout box like the Creative labs Audigy or the older Hercules 'theater' box. But the idea was plug and play direct. The speaks would be at ear height rather than slanted as well. I'm using a pair like that now but they are not plug and play and the driver should be improved to a 4 inch. Perhaps a micro version of a MLTL (Mass Loaded Transmission Line) whose design is wider than it is deep--like the EJ Jordan company design for the Jordan 92s.

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 22 Dec 2004 21:50:37 GMT
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I agree with you on the powered speaker approach. A single chip amp would be the simplest solution and they sound just fine. Your choice on the drivers: For some a small midwoofer and a dome would probably sound nice and for others, a high-quality full range driver would be more attractive. And of course, some would substitute the power op amp chip with a Tripath or even a small SET amp...What's your favorite flavors?

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 23 Dec 2004 01:28:56 GMT
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This month's Hi Fi Choice Magazine has a good DIY tube outboard PC amp design.

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 23 Dec 2004 14:37:29 GMT
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That's coooool!

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [lon](#) on Thu, 23 Dec 2004 16:59:03 GMT
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Alkilesh (sp?) mentioned those spiffy wood cone speaks in the JVC boombox-- mini shelf system. As a cosmetic tweak, I like this a lot. I have only experimented with single driver full range designs because I am electronics-challenged. And I'd like to keep the project-- the proof of concept--on the cutting edge of low cost. Best bang (or bling bling) for the bux is Fostex or Tangband. Plus there is a third selection at Creative Sources (though I don't know the specs) for a driver that prices out between the Fostex FE127e and the EJ Jordan 92s. The 92s is the premier single driver speak made and weighs in at about \$140 each. Dr. Griffin has used the Jordan in a number of projects. But since efficiency is a primary consideration, I'm waiting to hear other suggestions I may have overlooked. The goal of the project is to enhance the newer developments in streaming audio. As more people go to broadband, the desktop PC can function as a radio without noticeable degradation of performance-- in my case anyway. I can get by with dialup. But while I do, I know that trying to play classical music from Las Vegas or testing new speaker designs with the Pipedreams organ recital will slow the rest of my PII rig down to a crawl. Since this is a plug and play (hopefully not plug and pray) project, the plug-in, high quality, self-powered speakers should also compliment the desktop components. I truly believe that cosmetics are important.

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 23 Dec 2004 22:10:07 GMT
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I'd sure be intersted to see what you come up with.

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 24 Dec 2004 00:57:35 GMT
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I use Winamp and have a DSL; believe me the music sounds almost as good as a good FM tuner. What I am afraid of is they stop the ability to download streaming audio. I have Ripcast installed and the CD's sound very good that we rip from that set-up. I am looking for an MP3 player that sounds good to save the downloaded audio too; that was the questions earlier you so kindly answered. Thermionic claims that Gainclone amps do not work well installed in the speaker box, something about magnetic fields or mechanic vibration.I have been told the Jet brand of MP3 player sounds good. Therefor streaming audio to MP 3 should be very listenable.What I still don't fully get is how to download w/o compression. WAV files I geuss. So what I will try after the holidays is a seperate harddrive dedicated to audio. That should fit maybe 50 uncompressed songs on a 5gig harddrive;no?

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [lon](#) on Sat, 25 Dec 2004 00:08:20 GMT
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On the download question, the ftp and newsgroup sites that provide binary downloads should have the news on this. Also a good first stop is www.slyck.com which has the current news on p2p and detailed tutorials for using newsgroups and such. The player that I've heard the best things about is FooBar. Reason is that foobar is updated and tweaked more than some of the majors and I think it's open source. It's based on Winamp and I believe is skinnable etc.

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play
Posted by [lon](#) on Sat, 25 Dec 2004 02:38:53 GMT
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Well, this driver is brand new at Creative Sound Solutions. It is priced half way between the Fostex 127e and the Jordan 92sat about \$60. It is shielded so any prob's with the magnet in a cab should be eliminated. We never talked about what would power the amp in the box. That's another wrinkle. Just as a design concept I thought of a variation on the Jordan TL. With the 'koda" (which is what the CSS driver is called without all it's numbers) I thought of an asymmetrical mount with the driver in one corner in a mirror matched pair at the outside corner. The terminus of the line would fire inwards (left and right) toward the center. This would be a 'pancake' design and not in the golden ratio. The depth would be the smallest measurement so as to conserve on desktop real estate front to back. The inside would have a divider to increase the line length. Can one of you CAD guys model that? Hey this may be dumb, but nothing is as dumb as the Kleinhorn. Nelson Pass has lost his grip. And AudioXpress is actually featuring it as a build. I thought it was cool at first, but who'd want to live with such a construction? It makes the J-lo look tame doesn't it?
CSS/Adire Audio "koda"

Subject: Re: Project idea: Plug and Play-- the D2 amp

Posted by [lon](#) on Tue, 28 Dec 2004 04:19:56 GMT

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My missing issue of [_audioXpress_](#) came and whaddaya know--a possible inboard amp that is THX rated was reviewed by Charles Hansen. The Link shown below is not the manufacturer. I couldnot link to what was given called [www.d2audio.com](#) buta google turned up what I think is a commercial theatreapplication. Hansen mentioned the trend to putting the amp in the box (and I thought I had something original going-- asidfrom branded studio monitors.) See [_audioXpress_ December2004](#) p. 44 "New Chips on the Block." Anyway, it's another fish to fry. No clue as to wherethe juice is supposed to come from for this module though.This of course is still planning stage stuff. The theatrical line array description mentionsindividual d2's for each speak digitally controlled orsumpin'. I wasn't just totally following it and I'mnot an engineer. Wish I knew more about the device.

DR Audio amp
