Subject: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by footsurg on Wed, 18 Oct 2006 01:17:14 GMT
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Anybody from the Great Plains Audio Club headed to Denver this weekend for the Rocky Mountain Audiofest?

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by akhilesh on Wed, 18 Oct 2006 10:58:28 GMT
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Is it this weekedn, already? Damn..wish i had known...but probably not have been able to make it anyways. If you do go, please do et us know what you liked. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by footsurg on Wed, 18 Oct 2006 11:13:12 GMT
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akhilesh, I am leaving on Friday afternoon and plan to attend all day on Sat and Sun. Was hoping there might be a few GPAC members going as well. I will be sure to take lots of pictures and share them when I return. There are going to be over 300 rooms of audio and I am being told that almost a third of it will be cored by SET's.Mark

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by akhilesh on Wed, 18 Oct 2006 22:58:56 GMT
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HI Mark,I'd love to go, but duty calls! 300 rooms...jeeze sounds like a smorgasbord! 100 SETs....cool! PLease take pics, and record your impressions.. the next time wemeet i'd love to hear what impressed you. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: No need, best sound is in my living room
Posted by Bill Epstein on Fri, 20 Oct 2006 09:32:27 GMT
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The 'Simple 45' amplifier Steve Brown and I built is the best-sounding here, Denver, or anywhere. It's a direct-coupled,CCS driven, parafeed design found here:Simple 45with a few additions to the circuit by Steve. Temporarily, it resides in this plywood case:See the "Group Build" Forum for our respective contributions Ever since I heard the Yamamoto at Speakerman's house I knew I wanted that 45 tube sound. Soon after, I built the Welborne DRD 45 which was a huge disappointment. Then I had the KR Audio VA 340 with it's 300B XLS tubes in for review and that was forgotten. I became interested again after the KR went back and came across the Simple 45 design by John Tucker and maybe, only when presented in a positive light, (hee-hee) Doc Bottlehead. I showed it to Steve and he was impressed so I opened my wallet. It's powered by a Hammond 373BX with 5965 drivers. All the signal path is silver wired and has Audio Note tantalum resistors. The power supply includes the constant current source and, a little of the Evil Dr. Brown's secret sauce DC to the filaments that made for extremely low hum. Behind the drivers are JJ electrolytics; under the powder coated chassis are a pair of Hammond filter chokes and a big Solen cap. The output stage features Magnequest EXO-03 plate chokes, Obbligato oil parafeed caps and Magnequest Robin Hood parafeed output transformers. The bias meters, suggested by Steve, are a nice touch, don't you think?That all-important first impression is of incredible detail and ultra-tight bass control. You hear all that audiophile stuff like fingers-on-strings, the bodies of guitars, violins and cellos, the column of air pushing through reeds and clear tones of the deepest bass instruments. Voices are just sooo natural. None of these details exist by themselves, however. They become a part of a whole that invites you to just listen to the music. We played it through 100dB efficient open baffles and a pair of mid-90's sealed boxes. No compression or strain. Now, back at my house, I have it driving the 1812's direct through a Goldpoint attenuator to room-filling levels with ease.

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by footsurg on Fri, 20 Oct 2006 10:48:14 GMT
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Akhilesh, I looked at it again. Its actually around 100 rooms and 300 different brands, Sorry for the confusion. Mark

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Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by akhilesh on Fri, 20 Oct 2006 11:17:55 GMT
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Still a lot, MArk. I am looking to forward to hearing from you on what impressed you there.
-akhilesh

Subject: Re: No need, best sound is in my living room
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 20 Oct 2006 13:32:46 GMT
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Excellent! Nice work, Bill and Steve. I do like those meters, they give a nice retro look. What value the bias voltage? Is it rectified DC or battery? Or is it a DC offset AC? I am anxious to see the amp in your finished case!

Subject: Re: No need, best sound is in my living room
Posted by SteveBrown on Sat, 21 Oct 2006 01:07:20 GMT
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The driver is biased for 10ma, and the output is set at about 38ma. The heaters on both are AC, with some DC offset on the input tube. Direct coupled, with the plate of the driver at about 150v. The CCS is a simple one-MOSFET arrangement, ultra simple. Bill implemented a dual mono supply which, I'm sure, helps tighten the bass.

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by FredT on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 00:32:02 GMT
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Just returned from the RMAF this evening. I took a bunch of pictures which I'll try to post tomorrow. As I expected, the megabuck stuff sounded really good, but almost all of my pictures are of the affordable non-mainstream sellers' equipment (GR Research, Salk Sound, Selah Audio, Hagerman, RAW Acoustics, Silver Circle, Van Alstine, Odyssey, Dodd, etc etc). I'll try to caption and post them tomorrow.

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by akhilesh on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 13:10:37 GMT
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Sounds good Fred. Would love to hear your impressions of the best of what you heard as well (esp the experiemntal stuff). -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 13:41:27 GMT
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Was David Cope there with Audio Note? Did you get a chance to visit with Duke LeJeune? We're all eager to hear about your trip!

Subject: RMAF Pictures
Posted by FredT on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 14:40:27 GMT
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See the link below. My camera ran out of memory before I got everything I wanted, so some rooms like Audio Note aren't included.
RMAF Pictures

Subject: Stereophile Show Coverage
Posted by FredT on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 15:09:05 GMT
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I wandered over to the Stereophile web site a few minutes ago to see their early show coverage. Notice any difference between their pictures and mine? As usual their favorite brands are covered while the non mainstream brands are ignored. In those cases where a non mainstream shares a room with a pet brand they mention the name of the former but little else. See their coverage of the Blue Circle / Selah Audio room for an expample. Completely missing from their coverage are Van Alstine / Salk Sound, RAW Acoustics, GR Research / Dodd Audio, Tyler Acoustics, Azzolina, Daedalus, etc. I understand Stereophile is a business, and they have an obligation to promote the brands that advertise in their magazine, but their intentional avoidance of the non-mainstream brands that offer the greatest value but don't advertise is a disservice to their readers.

Subject: Re: Stereophile Show Coverage
Posted by akhilesh on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 16:16:25 GMT
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I don't think DIYers are their target demographic, Fred. Well to do males who don't know Ohm's law are. Such folk buy on brands. Stereophile can create brands. hence its power in that segment of the market...a segment that almost no one on ART inhabits. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by akhilesh on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 16:17:33 GMT
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HI Fred,I saw all your pics. Great job! I don;t feel so bad now, becuase I got to see it through your camera! Seems like you were really impressed by Salk's HT-3s. would that be a fair statement?-akhilesh

Subject: Re: Stereophile Show Coverage
Posted by FredT on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 18:35:15 GMT
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I agree about DIY'ers not being a significant demographic, but all of the manufacturers I mentioned mostly sell completed products and some sell only completed products. Their target buyer is the same person who now buys from dealers. The only difference is their presidents empty their own trash can, they don't advertise in Stereophile, and their prices are about half that of the mainstream brands.

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by FredT on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 18:37:12 GMT
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Yes, the HT-3 sounded as good to my ears as some very expensive speakers like the Gershman Black Swans ($30K).

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 18:47:46 GMT
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Excellent! Looks to me like you got all the best stuff. I don't really care about statement products from companies that care more about image than quality, that's not where real innovation comes from. You got the real good stuff from people that are passionate about making quality products, the smaller companies with talented designers.

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by Jim Griffin on Mon, 23 Oct 2006 23:40:03 GMT
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Fred,I would like to hear more of your thoughts on the R. Russell IDS25 (25 single full range drivers line array). Do they tempt you to replace your current line arrays with them? How effective was the equalization of them? Another person commented that the bass was overly EQ'ed. Thanks.Jim

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by FredT on Tue, 24 Oct 2006 00:44:02 GMT
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I didn't hear the comb filer effect I would have expected, even when doing knee bends to be sure I was hearing correctly. You'll notice in the pcture they're almost against the back wall, and the midbass was a bit strong, but that's the way I like it. When I got home last nite I fired up the system to see how the Selah XT-8 arrays compare to everything I heard at RMAF. No, even if they offered me an even trade I wouldn't be interested. The XT-8's (mine are ported) seem to have more authoritative bass, and the Fountek ribbons are much better at the higher frequencies than the single drivers. I would say the drivers they're using are comparable to the CSS 4.5" single drivers in my MLTL bipoles - clean sound with none of the peakiness I hear with Fostex drivers, but lacking some of the "air" I hear with a good ribbon or dome tweeter. A two way array seems to offer the best bang for your buck.

Subject: Thanks! Boy, do I miss VSAC!!! (nt)
Posted by SteveBrown on Tue, 24 Oct 2006 01:21:57 GMT
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nt

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by Jim Griffin on Tue, 24 Oct 2006 01:45:31 GMT
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Fred,Thanks for the details. The IDS25 array would be a good DIY'er for a novice speaker builder who could marry inexpensive drivers with an equalizer and yield good results. It could be DIY built using 3" Hi Vi or Aura drivers for less than $1000 plus the boxes and say $300 for an

equalizer. But for $18,900 per pair this comnmercial speaker isn't a player for most people. As you report, your Selah Audio line array that you built beats the IDS25 at both ends of the band. Plus it costs a lot less money. Jim

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Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by Shane on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 02:37:04 GMT
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Thanks Fred!I've been in Kearney, NE a 100 times as we have our annual meetings there and also have a lab down the road in Hastings. If I'd have known that Amber Waves mega-amp was there I'd have checked it out. Do you have to turn it on and adjust it by remote control?

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by Duke on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 02:47:24 GMT
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Hi Jim,My room was the one probably closest to the Roger Russel system, and since it was a line source the sound propagated very well indeed (something I wasn't overly appreciative of under the circumstances!).Vocals were very nicely rendered. I thought the top end a bit more rolled-off than normal from my vantage point (typically standing in the hall at the open doorway). The bass was a bit heavy, but that's probably an EQ setting issue. Dynamics seemed very good.Based on my limited awareness of what it takes to get a flat top end from a line array and deep bass from drivers with a resonant frequency well above cutoff, they must be cranking in a lot of boost at both ends of the spectrum. Power handling was given as 250 watts, which is 10 watts per little full-range driver. They looked like metal cone Tang Bands to my uneducated eye, but that's just a guess.I would say the Russels were definitely among the better systems, but then as you know I like a line-source speaker that does a good job from well off-axis! I think that approach is very viable application of the line source concept. Whether it's better than a good two way, I dunno. I sure liked what I heard from one of your designs at MWAF a few years ago.Think of it as a fairly expensive speaker that's helping to "get the word out" about line arrays.Duke

---

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by Duke on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 02:51:47 GMT
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Fred and his wife both made it to our room. Lori and I sure enjoyed seeing them again, and they were polite enough not to run screaming from the room with their fingers in their ears when the music started.On the first page of his show pictures, the sixth through eighth pictures are of one of

my rooms, and the ninth is of my other room (that's Lori alongside the speaker).Duke

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Subject: Thanks!!
Posted by Duke on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 02:53:33 GMT
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Fred, thank you for coming by my room with your wife. And thanks for posting such excellent pictures on the internet! I hardly got out at all (we were doing two rooms and the other manufacturer didn't show up in one of the rooms). Looking forward to the Dallas show next year!Duke

---

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by Jim Griffin on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 12:41:54 GMT
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Duke,Glad to see that you had a chance to showoff your new speakers. I'm sure that they sounded very nice.Thanks for your impressions on the IDS25. I have received a couple of requests from guys who want to build a similar design as a DIY project. Several people were impressed with this full range driver array but the $18,900 is too much for them. A similar set of arrays with small drivers from Hi-Vi or Aura can be realized for $1000 or so. The IDS25 uses the Tymphany Peerless V-line (or just Vifa) TG9FSD10-08 3.5" full range (at least to 15,000 Hz) drivers. These drivers are listed as discontinued/obsolete on the Tymphany website.Yeah I like what a line array does to the room. Dynamics without coloration are great.Jim

---

Subject: Re: RMAF Pictures
Posted by Greggo on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 14:09:49 GMT
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Well, I am obviously not Fred, but thought I would share some opinions anyways.I am a big fan of yours and Rick Craigs and appreciate all that you guys have done and shared over the last few years, especially as of late as you have both helped me quite a bit in advancing my knowledge in this hobby.Having said that, I spent all three days at RMAF, listened to every system there! I went to hear line arrays, horns, wave guides and ribbons since I can't afford to buy/build example of all of them myself. I initially liked the IDS25, as they immediately overcame my skepticism regarding lobing issues, at least so I thought. There was still something not quite natural about their upper range to me, and though this is highly subjective, what I thought was slightly less subjective was the fact that their soundstage was Jurasic Park like on just about everything. I have visited Rick in his home and like his arrays very much, and though the soundstage was definitely different than I

am used to with my AudioPhysic Tempo IIs, I found them much more agreeable than the IDS25. The IDS25, no doubt, has monster dynamics and a very clean sound, though I would agree that the EQ is clearly heavy to achieve what I heard, and that even at both ends of the spectrum, I would argue that there is something going on there that makes for a somewhat artificial sounding listening experience. Most male and female vocals however, with much of there energy probably not found in the range of the heavy EQ, were scary good and had an amazing presence, but again I felt like I was under attack by amazonians most of the time. Percussion was to die for however, and the only thing in the same leage from that regard was probably the Wilson Max 2 and other over-the-top rooms that did nothing but show just how stupidly self-indulgent this hobby can become.Regards,Greg Jensen

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Subject: Re: Thanks!!
Posted by Greggo on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 14:25:52 GMT
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Duke,Stopped by your room a couple of times but each time there were others in there and I didn't want to interrupt the conversation. I wanted to introduce myself and thank you for your candid posts about the the speakers, drivers, and waveguide you are using. I thought your stuff sounded great and you guys were doing a very good job of making everyone feel welcome and just focus on listening to music and having fun. Many of the rooms, especially yours, felt snob free and made the trip out there worth it for me. Others, and only just a few, left me cold and wishing I hadn't bothered to even walk in there room. Thanks again bringing your wares to RMAF and for sharing on forums such as this.Regards,Greg Jensen

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Subject: Re: Stereophile Show Coverage
Posted by Greggo on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 14:33:38 GMT
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I agree, and I am not interested in their "commerical reality" defense of how they choose to cover stuff. Will not subscribe to them again, haven't in a long time, and enjoyed just about everything they didn't cover much more than the stuff they did. I would have given up on this hobby long ago were it not for the DIY and special interest forums such as these. And not because I want to build everything... I am still a serious shopper, but have a much different perspective/attitude from the old days where only the rags and the high-end retail store experiences formed the base of my opinions....I know you like the Salk stuff quite a bit, I thought his room was fantastic but I just can't get into the Seas Excel sound for some reason. I thought Rick Craig's latest design made for one of the top 10 sounds at the show, as did the knew guys from AudioCrafters and Facet Audio. I also thought the Emerald Physics set up provided some amazing results, mostly towards the end of the show, and still not on all types of music... I think he had some real room challenges to overcome and never quite got all the way there.Regards,Greg Jensen

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Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 14:51:29 GMT
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Looks like a great time! Makes me doubly eager to get together with you and everyone in Dallas next May!

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by Greggo on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 15:04:58 GMT
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What's going on in Dallas in May?Also, for whatever it is worth, the AudioNote room sounded great, would probably make my top ten rooms at the show list...Greg Jensen

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 15:31:17 GMT
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Was David Cope in the Audio Note room? Haven't heard from him in a while.The Lone Star Audiofest is in Dallas the first weekend in May every year. The last two were actually in Tulsa, called the Great Plains Audiofest. We decided to do it in Dallas from now on, so we changed the name Lone Star Audiofest.
Lone Star Audiofest

Subject: Sorry, didn't catch the names in that room.... (nt)
Posted by Greggo on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 18:00:52 GMT
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(nt)

Subject: David Cope used to be the Audio Note USA distributor
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 18:02:56 GMT
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I don't know if he is still affiliated with them or not.

Subject: Re: David Cope used to be the Audio Note USA distributor
Posted by Greggo on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 18:29:24 GMT
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Not sure if there is something going on there... but I checked the guide booklet and they had Peter Qvortrup and a UK phone number listed for the Audio Note room.

Subject: Re: David Cope used to be the Audio Note USA distributor
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 19:25:06 GMT
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I've E-mailed both David Cope and Peter Qvortrup within the last year or so. Last May, there was a change in the distributor structure and David was no longer to be the USA distributor, as I recall. I just wondered if he was still working with Peter in some capacity. I guess I could write Peter and ask; I don't think David's E-Mail address works right now. I like David, so I am hoping the best for him in whatever he is doing.

Subject: Re: David Cope used to be the Audio Note USA distributor
Posted by DRCope on Tue, 31 Oct 2006 15:55:02 GMT
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Hi Wayne!Yes, I was the guy in the Audio Note room except for about 15 minutes a day Sat and Sun. when I snuck out just to be able to say I'd seen another room.I'm doing web site content, trade shows and misc. global mktg. for Audio Note UK these days. Spent the middle half of Sept in Milan, Paris and Hove, UK with Peter. You can see pix of that trip and other stuff on one of two web sites I've got going. I'm trying to provide both answers to FAQ and open ended discussion, as well as trade show reports. I haven't found one easy to use mechanism that allows both, so I'm split in two places.Hope to see you guys in TX in May!

Subject: Re: Rocky Mountain AudioFest
Posted by DRCope on Wed, 01 Nov 2006 13:40:13 GMT
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Mark,Why don't you post your impressions and pics under a new thread heading? This guy brought more vinyl to the show than I did! To say nothing of saving my bacon by having very juicy replacement tubes in his pocket when the M8 spit up a 5687.Thanks a million, doc!

Subject: Re: David Cope used to be the Audio Note USA distributor
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 02 Nov 2006 02:02:09 GMT
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Good to hear from you, Dave. I had written several E-Mails to you over the past several weeks, but all of them bounced. The address I had listed was at TrideAndCo.com, which I guess is no longer running. So we were all wondering about you. Glad you're still doing cool audio stuff!
