
Subject: Pi Speaker choice - Can they sound like a Klipschorn?

Posted by [Super_BQ](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 03:36:20 GMT

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I'm new to pi speaker enclosures. At this website <http://www.pispeakers.com/Prices.html> I've been looking at all the different models. My question is do ANY of them (or Pi speakers in particular) sound like the Klipsch Klipschorns? I'm not happy with how Klipsch won't be producing new Klipschorns until next year. So it would be great to find an alternative. I see all those speakers on that website can take HUGE amount of power. The amp I want to use is at my website which is only 25w x 2.

http://geocities.com/super_bq/HiFi.html

Subject: Theater Series seven Pi's are a good comparison

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 04:51:36 GMT

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The models most like the Klipschorns are the cornerhorns, and a valid comparison would be the Theater Series seven Pi's, which use components of similar quality. If you want a real treat, build yourself a pair of Professional Series seven Pi's. They have JBL pro drivers with advanced motor structures and shorting rings that reduce distortion to very low levels, some 50x lower than drivers without shorting rings. The Klipschorn is an excellent design, but it just can't match the performance of Professional Series seven Pi's with JBL pro drivers.

Subject: Re: What about the thermionic line?

Posted by [Randy Bey](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 10:04:54 GMT

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I see that the seven Pi (built by you) runs about \$800, if memory serves. Since I have 300B SET, this is what I would be interested in. Not too sure I want to sell my Khorns to "audition" a seven Pi though...

Subject: Son of Zen has highish output impedance so low Zmax

Posted by [AudioLapDance](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 10:12:09 GMT

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Hey Super BQ,Homer: "Mmmmmm Super BBQ ..."I recall that all of Nelson Pass's DIY amps (Zen, Son of Zen) have a highish output impedance (just like us tube heads); that is, a low damping factor. Thus you'll need a speaker with a low Zmax.So check out Wayne's speakers--especially the Theater Seven Pi as the big guy suggests. I think the JBL2226 has a fairly low Zmax so you could use them too. Maybe you could email Nelson and ask what he suggests and then post the response here.Enjoy,Jeff

Subject: Re: What about the thermionic line?
Posted by [Super_BQ](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 15:54:25 GMT
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Those Thermionic Series speakers look nothing like a fully hornloaded full range speaker. I mean part of the reason i'm partial to the Klipschorn is that particular sound from a bass horn. The Thermionics look like any off the shelf vented bass reflex enclosure so it would be tough to say they sound even close to a Klipschorn? Seeing how most people have never auditioned them, I suppose you really need to have both the pi-speakers and the Klipschorns side by side to really tell the difference?

Subject: Re: Son of Zen has highish output impedance so low Zmax
Posted by [Super_BQ](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 16:03:22 GMT
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Yes my SoZ amp has a very low damping factor. Maybe i'm using the wrong kind of amp as it seems like these Pi speaker are more suited for concert / outdoor use with BIG power amps. The only audition my SoZ has ever had was with a pair of B&W 6P speakers. They're not really what I was looking for as the small woofers they used would distort out or wash out at higher SPL. Also they don't have that fruity tooty horn sound that I like. Haven't e-mailed Nelson Pass as I think he's quite a busy guy - he probably has enough e-mails every day. But if I get desperate, I may bug him 1 more time. I'm also getting parts to build his Balance Line Stage pre-amp

Subject: Re: Theater Series seven Pi's are a good comparison
Posted by [Super_BQ](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 16:15:12 GMT
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Thank you for your response.>> The Klipschorn is an excellent design, but it just can't match the

performance of Professional Series seven Pi's with JBL pro drivers.

Subject: Re: What about the thermionic line?

Posted by [Crazy Dave](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 17:49:55 GMT

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Are you confusing price with sound quality? You should consider a few facts. Thermionic Six and Seven Pi(s) are horn loaded. Both Pi cornerhorns and Klipschorns use Eminence woofers. Wayne's method of horn loading gives him a much smoother frequency response than the Klipschorn (because the path to the driver more direct, less path length difference, etc). It is also much less expensive, uses less material and easier to construct. Have you ever seen Klipschorn plans? My point is not that Pi speakers must be better than Klipsch. It is that your arguments are not sufficient to dismiss Pi Speakers. Your arguments boil down to Klipsch is more expensive so it must be better. There are numerous real world contradictions to this. If you doubt me, I'll be happy to provide some (I sold audio for 7 years, including Klipsch). You're going to have to let your ears decide this one. Dave

Subject: Re: Theater Series seven Pi's are a good comparison

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 19:19:33 GMT

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The Professional Series seven Pi is better in terms of amplitude response smoothness, low distortion and maximum output. Of course that means it does sound different.

Subject: Re: not sure, but I think the little pictures

Posted by [Randy Bey](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 21:40:23 GMT

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are not images of the particular speakers themselves. If I am not mistaken, a seven is a corner horn loaded speaker. Don't know if \$900 is per pair or apiece, though.

Subject: Re: What about the thermionic line?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2001 23:59:21 GMT

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The three and four Pi are DI-matched bass-reflex speakers, and the six and seven Pi are cornerhorns. The crossovers in each are carefully designed to provide uniform directivity and constructive summing through the entire coverage angle for smooth response everywhere in the pattern.

Subject: Re: What about the thermionic line?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 15 Aug 2001 00:14:24 GMT

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The least expensive seven Pi's are the Thermionic Series seven Pi's, at \$900.00 each.
