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Subject: Comparing 4 Pi's

Posted by [Garland](#) on Thu, 15 Nov 2001 15:34:22 GMT

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I'm considering the 4 Pi's and was wondering about the sonic differences between the Theater, Stage, Premium and Professional series. My listening room is 14.5'x17.5'x7.5' and fairly cluttered w/ furniture so a small footprint is desirable but I don't want to sacrifice too much dynamics. What are the relative WAF qualities of the different series. Do the Stage, Premium and Pro 4 Pi's at 26" tall need stands? And lastly do these speakers come completely finished, as complete kits, or as plans/parts lists? From what I've read here, these speaker's sound just like what I've been looking for. Thanks for anyone's opinions and experiences! Garland

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Subject: Re: Comparing 4 Pi's

Posted by [Garland](#) on Thu, 15 Nov 2001 15:45:35 GMT

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One other thing: does anyone have photo's posted of these speakers? Thanks! Garland

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Subject: premium stage 4 pi's

Posted by [replay](#) on Thu, 15 Nov 2001 18:12:04 GMT

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enjoy

photo of my 4 pi's

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Subject: Re: Comparing 4 Pi's

Posted by [Colin Fritzke](#) on Thu, 15 Nov 2001 19:50:47 GMT

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I'm just in the process of gathering my parts for a set of Four Pi's and am finalizing the cabinet design. Pi Speakers are available either as complete speakers or just Wayne Parham's designs that he has graciously offered to make available to DIY'ers like us. He can provide assembled crossovers for you if you wish, but otherwise it's up to you to gather all the parts and materials necessary to build these his designs. I've decided to go with building some Theater Four Pi's, and after considerable discussion with Wayne, my variant will use the Eminence Kappa 15LF driver instead of the Delta 15 because I want smaller cabinets. He says the Theater Four Pi crossover will work just fine with the Kappa 15LF and my wife would much prefer the 3.5 cubic foot cabinet

that I can build for the Kappa as opposed to the massive 7+ cubic foot cabinets required for the Delta 15 in the Theater 4 Pi. George (replay) has built the Stage 4 Pi (see his picture in this thread) and it also is a smaller cabinet than the Theatre 4 Pi as built by Till E. (see posts below).  
Colin

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Subject: Re: Comparing 4 PI's  
Posted by [BillEpstein](#) on Thu, 15 Nov 2001 20:19:40 GMT  
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Here are my Theatre 4's. Stands? No. Barstools, maybe!

Pictures of DIY Theatre 4 Pi

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Subject: Re: Comparing 4 PI's  
Posted by [Garland](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2001 14:59:58 GMT  
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Colin, Can you reiterate some of the conversations you've had with Wayne comparing the sonic attributes of the theater 4 Pi with the Delta 15 and the one you are building with the Eminence Kappa 15LF. What are the dinensions of the revised cabinet w/the Kappa's? Why didn't you decide to go with the Stages or Pros with their smaller cabinet, if I might ask? I have a need to keep the cabinets as small as possible but don't want to give up too much of the dynamic range that I hear these speakers revel in. Also, what tweeter are you using?Thanks!Garland

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Subject: Re: premium stage 4 pi's  
Posted by [Garland](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2001 15:12:22 GMT  
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Replay, can you please give me some of your sonic impressions of the Stages as you have built them? How do they sound compared to the Corner horns (7 Pi?) that I believe you also have. And lastly, what are the dimensions of your Stage cabinets less the top mounted horns? Thanks alot!Garland

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Subject: Re: Comparing 4 Pi's

Posted by [Colin Fritzke](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2001 18:45:51 GMT

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Garland, Well... that's a lot of questions, but I'll try to explain as briefly as possible. (That's the Kappa 15LFA above, in case you were wondering). I think I have pretty much the same goals in mind with my speakers as you do... extremely dynamic sound yet in a package that my wife will allow in our living room. I've read everything I can find in the archives of this forum about people who have built Four Pi's, and they generally LOVE them. I could build the Theatre Three Pi, as it requires a considerably smaller cabinet than the Four and according to Wayne, sounds virtually the same. But I wanted MAXIMUM dynamics, so I really wanted to go with a Four Pi, even though I'll be pushing them with 45W/ch of quality solid state power. Problem is.... I don't have the space for 7 cubic foot cabinets that the Theatre Four Pi's require (see how big Mr. Till E.'s are?). Also, the price for the Omega woofers in the Stage 4 Pi's each cost approximately \$130 Canadian more at my local supplier than the Delta 15's do, and the JBL2226's are double that, which would make this project just a bit too expensive for me. After looking at those options, I analysed a few other drivers in the Eminence line, and it appears the Kappa 15LFA's (see picture above) were the best compromise in terms of price/performance ratio. They require a much smaller box than the Delta 15 (Mine will be just under 4 cubic feet, tuned to 40 Hz) while offering the virtually the same performance of the Omega in the same cabinet volume, only with slightly less power handling ability. I've corresponded with other people who have used the the Kappa15LFA in different projects and have been really successful, so I'm hoping they'll work well in my application. I guess a safer bet might have been to go with a proven design like the Theatre Three Pi (using the Delta 12LFA), but like I said, I wanted maximum dynamic ability. The Kappa 15LFA's are rated like the Delta with response curve similar enough that I'm confident that the Theater Four Pi crossover will work just fine. The Stage/Pro cabinets are listed as being 26"x18"x14" (I think), which yields a cabinet volume somewhere around 3 cubic feet. Mine will be a little taller...about 34"x18"x14" for a volume of approximately 3.8 cubic feet (based on internal dimensions). That is about as big of a speaker cabinet as I can get away with in my living room, and I suspect my wife won't object as much to them if I put a nice veneer on them. I should be able to get sufficient bass extension, with a -3dB point around 45 Hz and gradually fading from there. They will be placed in corners, so I'm counting on a little bit of help from the room acoustics for deep bass. Based on Boxplot graphs, the Theater Three Pi will play deeper than my proposed design, but the tradeoff is it isn't quite as efficient. Tweeter is still going to be the Eminence PSD2002 8-ohm compression tweeter with Eminence H290 horn as called for in the Theatre Four Pi Design. To summarize, if size is a serious issue, go with the Theater Three Pi's. If you have the budget, go with the Professional four Pi's. If you're like me, on a moderate budget and with size constraints, the Stage four Pi might be best or a modified version like I've done. If size no problem, go with the Theater four Pi's. Regards, Colin

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Subject: Pi Speaker Forum

Posted by [replay](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2001 22:42:07 GMT

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hi colin, why not go all the way and use the kilomax drivers? if my distributor still has inventory you could get them for \$225.00 cdn each. he's located in toronto.cheers,george

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Subject: garland, here is the review  
Posted by [replay](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2001 22:50:21 GMT  
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hi garland, below is the link to my previous review. my cornerhorns were sold to grant (aka rider), they were just too big. i never got around to fixing the compensation network as i used a different horn on these. i believe the corner horns are the ultimate as the soundstage is immense, but am really impressed with the 4pi's considering their size. good luck.cheers,george

this review's for you

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Subject: Re: Comparing 4 PI's  
Posted by [Colin Fritzke](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2001 23:18:24 GMT  
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George,I'm starting to wonder .... if I should be going with something else for a woofer. I was just looking at the Eminence and Parts Express Websites and NEITHER of them are showing the correct frequency response graph for the Kappa 15LF. The Eminence site shows the Delta 15LF's graph in the Kappa 15LF's spot, while the Parts Express site shows the regular Kappa 15 graph. Doesn't anyone have an actual graph of the performance of this driver? I'm starting to wonder if it is perhaps a little less than pretty...By the way, who is your dealer? Is it Q-Components? That's where I'd be mail-ordering from. Whatever I do, I probably won't blow the big bucks on the Kilomax 15... I just can't justify it for home use. What can you get the Kappa 15LF's for? How about the Omega 15? Colin

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Subject: kilomax 15  
Posted by [replay](#) on Sat, 17 Nov 2001 12:16:14 GMT  
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hi colin, q components i believe charges \$289.00. the distributor is accusonic. they only sell wholesale so let me know if you are interested. he specializes in job lots and does not have the other models. i bought the kilomax simply because the price was right, plus they look cool.cheers,george

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Subject: Re: kilomax 15

Posted by [Colin Fritzke](#) on Sat, 17 Nov 2001 13:08:17 GMT

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Actually, if you're talking about the Kilomax 15 from Q-Components, its \$347.85 - which is a big reason why I hadn't even considered it. The Kappa is \$173.63. Part of me is also thinking.... that aluminum heat sink does indeed look cool, but I guess I have a hard time swallowing the idea of using this driver well into the midrange when it was designed only for loud bass in extremely high-power PA systems. I'm no expert, but I would think that such a massive heatsink would have a detrimental effect on the midrange performance of this driver, as opposed to another driver with a smaller, more "conventional" dustcap. Believe me, I have read all of your posts on this forum with interest and I really do believe that you've built yourself some pretty amazing sounding (and looking) speakers. I guess I just kinda hope that I might be avoiding some undesirable midrange anomalies by not going with the Kilomax.... but then again, maybe the Kappa 15LFA is no better(?). Does that heatsink resonate?Regards,Colin

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Subject: Re: kilomax 15

Posted by [replay](#) on Sat, 17 Nov 2001 18:08:45 GMT

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colin, i'm not analytical to my components. i feel you can make yourself hear whatever improvements you believe in. i listen to music and if what i hear stirs my soul then i'm happy, whether my speaker wire is lamp cord or nordost valhalla makes no difference, it's the end result that matters. i'm sure some technoid could measure the effects of the heatsink but i can't hear them, and that's what's important. colin, i'm sure you'll enjoy whichever pi's you build, just build'em quick, because i know what you're missing.cheers,george

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Subject: Re: kilomax 15

Posted by [Colin Fritzke](#) on Sat, 17 Nov 2001 23:07:15 GMT

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George,I hope you didn't take my previous post as an insult... I certainly meant no offense by it! I honestly wish I could hear your speakers, but I live in Calgary so I can't see that happening anytime soon. They sure look awesome, and if they're better than the Klipsch RF-7's I heard today, than that's more than good enough for me.Colin

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Subject: no offense taken :)

Posted by [replay](#) on Sat, 17 Nov 2001 23:58:38 GMT

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hi colin, you definitely did not offend me, audio has been my passion for over 15 years. i've seen every marketing ploy in the business. i got sick of the business and left audio for 5 years and even owned a pair of bose 901's, they are probably better than most of the so called audiophile speakers out there, i'm back in the business again selling audio with a fresh approach, selling sound without the hype. people are happy and dancing in their homes.hey, calgary's pretty cheap to toronto, thanks to westjet.cheers,george

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Subject: klipsch rf7

Posted by [replay](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2001 00:06:21 GMT

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colin, the pi's are what klipsch should build, that does not look promising as the heritage series is still in limbo. i'm a dealer but i don't know how much longer i'll support the line, klipsch seems to have turned into a marketing company and forgotten their roots. i had a pair of k-horns on order for over a year and production is still not in sight. that's when i found wayne and i'm glad i did. better product for less money and the best support in the world. let us know how they sound.cheers,george

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Subject: Theater series and 2A3's

Posted by [ZenAudio](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2001 14:02:59 GMT

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Till E (& others):I'm curious about your decision to go with the Theater series. I'm just learning about the Pi's, but it seems that the experts suggest a 300B for the Theater 4's. I note you are planning to build some Paramours. I've just built Paraglow's and like the looks of the Theater 4's. Any input would be appreciated. Thanks.Mike

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Subject: Re: Comparing 4 PI's

Posted by [Zeno](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2001 14:52:54 GMT

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you can do the theater 4 pi with delta 15" which is nice for low power set, or pro 4 pi with jbl2226 for the very best. stage and premium 4 pi are in between and better for powerful amps.

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Subject: Re: Theater series and 2A3's

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2001 20:46:16 GMT

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Of course, the 300B tube is capable of greater output power, but there's nothing wrong with a 2A3 driving these speakers. Works very well and is loud enough for many people. It's a pretty popular combination, to tell the truth.

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