Subject: good news and bad news
Posted by Jerry Parker on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 18:38:33 GMT
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First off the bad news. We looked at the cabinet dimensions for the 4pi theater series and its 9cuft!!! That is way to big. Can we construct smaller cabinets maybe around 5cuft at a hit in bass response? Mitch already has a subwoofer, so bass isnt all that important.Also, the good news is, Mitch is 90% sure he will build the 4pi's. He needs a good reciever with LOTS of power to drive the 4pi's though. Do you know of any recievers under 300 dollars that are a good value, and actually put out their rated power? Thanks!

Subject: Re: good news and bad news
Posted by Adam on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 18:41:39 GMT
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Under 300? That's quite a stretch. You can find some decent power amps for that price, but not a fully integrated receiver/amplifier that is good at all.Adam

Subject: lot's of good vintage receivers on ebay nt
Posted by replay on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 19:10:08 GMT
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nt

Subject: Re: good news and bad news
Posted by josephjcole on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 19:43:02 GMT
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I'm not sure exactly what you are looking for but I got a old dynaco tube amp with a matching AM/FM reciever for $120 off of ebay. It only has twelve watts of power but I've never felt a lack of power when listening to my pi 3's. With just a little bit of work the dynaco sound pretty nice.... I like it at least...Joe

Subject: Re: good news and bad news
Posted by Bugman on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 20:17:11 GMT
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I would not bother with a new reciever for under three hundred, you wont get very much, but I would agree that if you look at audigon or ebay you will be able to find something decent for 300 bucks. Try one of the bigger Sansui, Pioneer or Marantz recievers. Some models need a little cleaning now and then to keep them from making some noise. But that is one thing you have to deal with.

Subject: Solutions for 5 cubic feet
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 20:47:42 GMT
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The woofers in them work just fine in cabinets from 2 to 5 cubic feet.

Subject: Re: good news and bad news
Posted by BillEpstein on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 20:53:27 GMT
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Well of course you don't need lots of power with Pi's but then you already know that. So perhaps you do need the power. If so, a '70's reciever is just the thing if it works. Here's a 75 watt Marantz chosen more or less at random. Audiogon has been good to me but you MUST speak to the seller by phone to get the vibes.I have no conection to the seller and this is not a recommendation, just an example.

http://cgi.audiogon.com/cgi-bin/cl.pl?miscrcvr&1028092111&class&3&4&

Subject: Re: good news and bad news
Posted by Jerry Parker on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 22:43:14 GMT
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Well, the problem with tubes is that they severly limit the max SPL. He wants high output, with decent sound quality too. Tubes just wont work. Ideally he would get a Crown Macrotech like Wayne has, but they cost a thousand dollars or more. He likes his music very loud, and needs a

semipowerful amplifier.

Subject: Re: Solutions for 5 cubic feet
Posted by Jerry Parker on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 22:54:03 GMT
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Hmm, this could be a problem then. He is already stretching his pocketbook already, I think most of his first paycheck is going into these speakers! Remeber we are only college students! :-) The funny thing is, we were discussing the box size the other day, and he said they are way too big, but he would probably build them anyways! So, he might go for it, but Im not sure.I still think he wouldnt be that bad off with a pair of 2pi's but of course he wants compression drivers.Is there any way he can go with a sealed enclosure for the 4pi's theater series? I know you arent a big fan, since it sacrifices some output, but since the Bass isnt as much of an issue, will it still be a problem?Also, why does putting the woofer in too small make it too underdamped? I thought a smaller enclosure would make the impedence peaks less magnitude. Or does the underdamping cause more peaking? Thanks.

Subject: Re: good news and bad news
Posted by josephjcole on Fri, 21 Jun 2002 01:20:20 GMT
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With speakers as effecient as the pi's are I cann't see the need for more than fifteen or twenty watts unless you are using them to put on concerts. I never turn mine past the half-way point with twelve watts, at which point conversation is pretty much gone, and if I did have neighbors I'm sure I would be getting complaints.

Subject: Re: Solutions for 5 cubic feet
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 21 Jun 2002 06:02:59 GMT
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seem "too big" and they are well worth the size. Sealed alignments for the Delta 15 are underdamped if less than eight cubic feet. Six cubic feet is acceptable, but a ported alignment is better in all respects so it just doesn't make sense to run this speaker in a sealed cabinet. Run some response curves with Boxplot and you'll see what I mean.

Subject: Re: good news and bad news
Posted by JLapaire on Fri, 21 Jun 2002 08:16:43 GMT
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Jerry, Another thing to consider is just to stretch them up a bit. Most listening rooms benefit by the additional height anyway, and you'd need less floor space, which is usually at a premium. I made mine 49.5" tall, which put the woofer-tweeter halfway point right at ear level, and the smaller footprint makes placement easier.John

Subject: pp6BQ5's hit 100dB at 2 on the volume
Posted by Sam P. on Fri, 21 Jun 2002 15:43:55 GMT
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when driving my "quasi" 4 Pi Pro's (jbl 2035 woofers) with a Fisher 500S tube receiver. If that ain't loud enough, buy your buddy a hearing aid! Seriously, a modest amount of tube power works well with 100dB/watt speakers such as Wayne's designs, as long as the drivers z is benign. But connect a 200watt or greater SAND amp, and those babies will sing at rock concert levels with minimal distortion. I run out of tolerance for the spl's way before I run out of amplifier gain, even when wearing 30dB ear muffs. With a 100watt amp, at 2.5 on the preamp, average MEASURED spl (fast, c weighting) is 100dB. At 4.5 on the pre, spl was 110dB. At 8, the 1% distortion lights on the amp were blinking, spl was a steady 120dB, but I would not run my gear that hard for long (and my ears were still getting 90dB!). Oh yeah, 100watts will rock your socks off, definitely. With my 200watt amp, I could run those speakers at 120dB INDEFINITELY. And believe me, Stevie Ray Vaughan at 120dB is rocking... And with Wayne's crown amps, I could "get that last 8 or 10 dB" of pure power output from these guys, and hit 125 to 130dB. But how loud is enough? I usually listen at 70 to 80dB maximum, unless I'm trying to convince the neighbors who home school their kids that Ozzie Ozbourne was a genius with the guitar...you just gotta hear Black Sabbath's first album at 100dB plus to understand, track 5 was playing one night, and suddenly we noticed, hey, there are some pretty good licks hidden in that old metal "noise". Oh yeah, at 120dB, the sound did "become slightly congested", to tell the truth. I think the spl's were starting to shake the cd player by then :(Sam

Subject: with ebay, caveat empor (long)

must be remembered at all times. I realize the selection seems great and the prices can be attractive (watch that shipping on 511's). But I have done very well even in my small West Texas town at finding used gear, vintage and modern, at good prices and in situations where you can "check it out personally" before any money (and no shipping) changes hands. You guys need to get some fresh air away from the keyboards, and hit a few thrift stores and estate sales. In the NICE parts of town. Another great tactic, pester friends and family members (the older ones) about old stuff they might have "laying around". Most are happy to donate gear to budding audio fans. Even if it's broke, the repair might be simple. My brother-in-law supposedly has a garage full of "broken" stereo speakers, sometimes it could be just a bad connection, but there they will sit, he "is not into fixing stuff", he just gets new ones. And not at best buy. Military base nearby? Keep an eye out, ours has a big "garage sale" out at their rec camp several times a year, where the public is welcome. $80 brought a pair of Klipsch KG-2's, Kenwood receiver, cassete recorder, and cd player used, but all in factory cartons with all remotes and manuals. The cd player needed a "rubber band" for the tray mechanism, and I literally ran it for months with one till I bought a rubber belt locally. Everything else worked great, the KG's are my computer "monitor" speakers now. You have better odds getting out and beating the bushes locally for old gear. Ebay, although I use it too, SHOULD NEVER BE YOUR PRIMARY SOURCE of old hifi. Oh yeah, and pawn shops have the cheapest used cd's, but the most expensive, beat to shit band gear I've ever seen. The ones in SC near Charleston's bases are full of great hifi gear though. Hit the streets guys, and save some money for building speakers, cause most of the old classic drivers never match worth a darn, and your imaging with them will suck. Those great speakers "that just need refoamed", pass them on by, you will be better off in the long run. Samoh yeah, and there was the time I choked at an auction locally for about $25K worth of late model Macintosh HT gear. wife said I could spend $5K. musta been 110 that afternoon in there, my heart was pounding, and I was sweating like I would die. you see, I had witnessed this lady bidder make mince meat of a bunch of other bidders, and she was winning every damn auction. so after the bids went over $300, it was down to me and the lady bidder from hell. back and forth, in 100 increments. then I raised her to like $2500, a big jump. back and forth some more, and I caved in at $3K and let her win. never did figure out what I would have done with it anyway, and the repairs if needed could have been pretty costly. BUT IF I HAD STAYED HOME, that lady would have "won" for under $300...