Subject: 2-pi evaluation
Posted by spkrman57 on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 00:15:34 GMT
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Hi all, I have opportunity to run a pair of 2-pi's I have in my possesion. My equipment is as follows: Sony 608ESD CD player/McIntosh MX-113 tuner preamp(solid state) driving Dynaco ST-70 (stock). My previous speaker system was JBL 2226J/Altec 806A on 811B horn using Wayne's stock crossover. TillE came to visit today(Great guy he is). We listened to 4-pi pro's and then we connected the 2-pi's. What follows here is my opinion not TillE's, I will let TillE post his story so we can all hear different points of interest on this. While the 2 pi's can't really hold a candle to the 4-pi's, I can't recommend a better speaker for the money. The bass is very good when I use the "loudness" kicked in except for bass-heavy music (Foreplay for ex). I found the piezo a little to sharp and forward though. I took a plastic lens from a pair of Sansui speakers (ala JBL style), that helped a little. These 10" Eminence are not fully broke in yet, so I can imagine the bass will become much more impressive and the speaker may relax a bit. The bass seems almost as low as the 4-pi's but without the "larger-than-life" feeling that the JBL 2226's deliver, but figure that a 2226 costs roughly $350.00 apiece plus shipping and handling from Parts Express and the 2-pi's cost that much for a pair of speakers, they definitely are very cost-effective for the money. I will play them for awhile to finish break-in, and then post a more descriptive evaluation. These will never replace my 4-pi's, but for someone on a budget, this is your speaker. (I think the 2-pi towers will probably be much better judging from the woofer response in the Studio version which has much more bass than I expected from the Eminence 10" driver). Let me know what other 2-pi owners think, and I think I may tweak the crossover a little(I know there is really not one, but you know what I mean, there is room to refine this speaker with excellent results) Regards, Ron

Subject: Re: 2-pi evaluation
Posted by Edwin on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 02:05:34 GMT
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Hi spkrman57. I have been using my 2Pis for the last 6 months and lately with my Foreplay/Paramours. No complaints. I think it is really the best bang for the buck! I haven't heard a 4Pi yet but is the difference in sound character really that much to necessitate an upgrade? Thanks.

Subject: Studio 2's vs. Theater 4's
Posted by Garland on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 09:50:48 GMT
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I had a pair of 2's in my system (Bottlehead Foreplay and Paramours, Heathkit EL-84 stereo amp,

CDP) for a few days that I helped a friend build and they are very fun loudspeakers to listen to. My Theater 4's are an entirely different beast in my system. The strength of the 2's IMHO lies in it's lack of crossover which I feel adds a sense of immediacy to the music. The Theater 4's seem to have flatter responce across the board but there is the crossover to deal with which for tweakers like me leads to a bit of audio nervosa (manageable,thank you!). The 4 sounds like the more refined loudspeaker, which is what it is. But the 2's sound so lively, I really do plan on building a pair!G

Subject: Re: 2-pi evaluation
Posted by wasteh202 on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 12:27:45 GMT
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I will begin working today on the second speaker in my (sons) 2Pi Towers. I have not even listened to a complete pair yet and I am already impressed. About 4 days afrer finishing the speaker and giving it some play time my son (we built them for his room) told me that they seem to sound better. I did not really know if this 10" Eminence driver had a break-in time, I suspected it may as many speakers do. I was suprised that he would pick-up on it as I said nothing to him about break-in(he is 17 years old) I can't agree with you more about the bang for buck quality of this 2 Pi. I agree with you also on the bass, In fact the Tower is probably even more impressive in that area. I agree with Garland about the lack of an XO being a big factor in the success of this speaker. After I decided I would not need a sub with these speakers... I changed the the setting on my HT pre-amp to "large" to send a full range signal to the Towers, what I noticed was without the the XO in the pre-amp inhibiting the sound the towers were much better (Denon AVD-2000 Dolby Digital Processor+ driven with a HK 80wpc amp). When driven with my Sansui 9090db things really come alive (but a bit bright and a lot of bass, so the mids seemed a bit lacking with the Sansui). I also agree with Garland that the Piezo is probably the weakest part of this system (2Pi). I will be building a pair of Theater 4's in the future, I have access to JBL parts at a very good price so I wish I could put JBL drivers in the 4's but I want them to be tube friendly so I will probably stick with the stock plans. I have found the Eminence drivers to be sufficient to do the job. I find it interesting that the Studio Series had recieved much attention here of late. Keep posting these comparisons. When mine are complete I be be doing some A/B comparisions of my own and sharing them here (pics too).Have fun!

Subject: Forward tweeters
Posted by Jabberwock on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 13:08:25 GMT
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I also find the piezo tweeter on the 2-Pi's a little too forward and harsh-sounding. I'd be interested to hear more about tweaks to tame them a bit. I'm a bit of a speaker newbie, so I'm not sure what

the plastic lenses are that you describe. Also, I don't have that many hours on the speakers. Can I expect the tweeters to mellow any with break-in? In the mean time, I'm using speaker cables that attenuate the highs somewhat, perhaps too much. My current setup includes the Bottlehead Foreplay and a DIY EL-84 PP amp. Source is either a Rega P3/Dynavector 10x4 or a Pioneer DVD with ART DIO.

Subject: Re: Forward tweeters
Posted by wasteh202 on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 13:26:50 GMT
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Nice system, I have been wanting to add a Foreplay and DIO to my system for over a year now. I just never seem to make it happen. Bank for buck(from everything I've read) two very worthwhile investments. I have a mono tube-amp currently but it it not much use with ony one, I plan to get some stereo tubes soon to use with the very efficient Theater 4's(when I build them)Are your speaker cables silver wire?

Subject: Re: Forward tweeters
Posted by Jabberwock on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 14:51:18 GMT
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Hi,I'm currently using DIY CAT5 cables. Haven't tried silver. Next I'm going to try magnet wire speaker cables.The Pi-2 towers will definitely be in keeping with my bang-for-the-buck system once I've tweaked them to my satisfaction.Peace

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Subject: Re: 2 pi Tower Plans, me too please.
Posted by hatchm on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 15:10:47 GMT
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Hey Jabberwock,Any chance you could share some details on your PP EL84 amp, I'm thinking of putting one together and looking for a good design (or an EL34).Thanks,Hatch

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Subject: Oops
Posted by hatchm on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 15:38:18 GMT
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Sorry, forgot to clear the header before I replied to this thread.

Subject: DIY EL-84 PP amp
Posted by Jabberwock on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 16:22:45 GMT
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I started with the power and output trannies from a Dynaco SCA-35 and built the amp linked below. With high quality parts, it's a great little tube amp.

DIY EL-84

Subject: Re: Forward tweeters
Posted by wasteh202 on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 16:22:54 GMT
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I made a cat-5 cable, but only one and have not used it enough to make any conclusions. I believe that it is probably suited beter for power amps with speakers that draw a high current 4ohm load like Maneepans or Carver ALS. I think the magnet wire for speakers will work good for tube amps conected to sensitive speakers. I will be trying the magnet wire in the future myself.

Subject: Woops here too
Posted by wasteh202 on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 16:25:22 GMT
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That should read "Magnepans", my typing botched that one up!, sorry about that if anyone was trying to figure out what speaker I was refering to.

Subject: Magnet wire
Posted by Jabberwock on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 16:27:53 GMT
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I've tried magnet wire as a speaker cable in other applications and liked the results. It produced particularly good results with a pair of 6DN7-based parafeed SET monoblocks (a Bottlehead design rated at 5 watts) and a pair of Hawii 5.0 speakers (ported bookshelfs with a single Radio Shack driver).

Subject: Bad spelling day...
Posted by Jabberwock on Sat, 04 Jan 2003 16:29:01 GMT
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That should read "Hawaii."

Subject: Re: 2 pi Tower Plans, me too please.
Posted by Scholl on Sun, 05 Jan 2003 10:33:06 GMT
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You might also try Jabberwocks topology replacing the 12AX7 with a 6H30 with 15K Rp, 240 Rc and 6.8K phase splitter resistors. Same NFB resistors. Also all poly caps, everywere. Adjust the power supply for 325 or greater B+ on the input.

Subject: 2 pi's vs 4pi-pro
Posted by spkrman57 on Sun, 05 Jan 2003 12:12:22 GMT
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Edwin, The best way to put it, is that the 2-pi's go much higher on the top octaves, the bass seems to go about the same as the JBL 2226's, What the 2 pi's lack is the "larger than life" soundstage. I don't think the 2 pi's soundstage is very wide or deep compared to the 4 pi-pro's. When I play certain music with the 4 pi-pro's, I feel like I am there and can get up out of my chair and join the musicians. I hope nobody gets the impression I am ragging on the 2 pi's, the cost factor is unbeatable, but if you get the 4 pi parts, a definite improvement. I am still waiting for the Alpha 10 to break in though. Regards, Ron

Subject: Plastic Lenses
Posted by spkrman57 on Sun, 05 Jan 2003 12:21:21 GMT
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Jabberwock, The lenses I described are thin pieces of metal or plastic that disperse the mid frequencies more than the highs (at least that is my theory), The ones I have came from pair of Sansui SP-9X something or other that I bought while overseas in the Navy back in the 70's and 80's, They are plastic but I think they do help tame the bright peizo sound some. Maybe someone on the forum here can find old JBL speaker system with the lenses and post link, I have sore throut and sinus problems today, so somewhat braindead. Regards, Ron

Subject: Re: Tweeter Damping
Posted by Matts on Sun, 05 Jan 2003 19:57:07 GMT
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I "damped" the tweeter on my 2Pi's with my fav damping material- Xtreme Dynamat, which is made for car stereos. I put 3 small square pieces on the sides of the "horn" (facing inside of cab) and 3 narrow strips around the inside of the rim. I was trying to smooth the trebles out, but to my surprise it really tightened up the mids and the bass! I also used the stuff inside my CDP with incredible results.