
Subject: B&C vs P.Audio compression drivers

Posted by [Adrian Mack](#) on Wed, 05 Mar 2003 06:39:09 GMT

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Hey everyone. I can get B&C and P.Audio compression drivers here in australia (and selenium/RCF for that fact.....). Out of these four brands, what would you say is the best? I'm thinking of the B&C DE16 and DE25 1" compression drivers for my two JBL 2370 horns. Anyone with experience with any of these brands/drivers above I'd like to hear from you! I originally intended to get P.Audio stuff, before I knew I could get the other stuff in australia. The B&C I've heard are really good, much better than selenium, which is why I would like these instead. They do considerably more than some of the P.Audio stuff, except for the P.Audio SD line. TIA! Adrian

Subject: Re: B&C vs P.Audio compression drivers

Posted by [Adrian Mack](#) on Wed, 05 Mar 2003 06:40:45 GMT

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lol missed out a word, meant they B&C do COST considerably more than..... and the rest of the sentence is in the other post :)

Subject: Re: B&C vs P.Audio compression drivers

Posted by [ToFo](#) on Wed, 05 Mar 2003 14:22:21 GMT

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Adrian I would like to make clear that I have no experience with any of these. I have shopped for drivers long and hard and noticed the P-Audio PA-D45 and BM-D450 looked like good candidates for a 2370 horn. The B&C also has frequency response that looks complimentary to 2370, but has a recommended range of operation starting at 2,200 Hz and a bottom limit listed at 1,500 Hz. I would be afraid that you would be running the driver at resonance with a 1.6 KHz x-over (Fs isn't listed for the B&C). On a horn designed for 650 Hz, or with a Pi x-over (1600 Hz) I like lower Fs. I also wonder about the sound or the mylar diaphragm on the B&C as versus titanium. At 1600 Hz x-over the cutoff of the horn and the resonance of the driver are both more than an octave away. This is said to be the best situation, and should push throat distortion and resonance issues out of range. On paper this combo is a very good fit! A nice bonus with low Fs and horn cutoff, you could cross over a bit lower if you wanted to (especially in home use), making even more woofers a viable match. Keep in mind I am an amateur and this is just an armchair assessment. Let us know what happens, it's real cool when people find a way to do the Pi thing where "standard" parts are not always available. Thomas

Subject: Re: B&C vs P.Audio compression drivers
Posted by [Adrian Mack](#) on Wed, 05 Mar 2003 20:20:47 GMT
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Thanks for the advice! I did notice the high recommended cutoff of the B&C as well. I checked out the two P.Audio drivers you mention, the PA-D45 looks nice, with recommended 1K crossover frequency. I am using the Pi Crossover, at either 800Hz or 1.6KHz (have not decided yet). I'm thinking that the PA-D45 is designed for PA use (hence the model number!) so it may sound like crap for Hi-Fi purposes? I did also look at the BM-D450, it looks nice too, but recommended crossover of 2.2K and frequency range of 1.5K to 20KHz :(What do you think of the P.Audio SD line? The SD-450 N has $f_s=750\text{Hz}$, and frequency range of 500-20KHz. The frequency response graph can be seen below:http://www.paudio-europe.com/products/db_product.htm?v_tipo=2&v_tipo_desc=DRIVERS&v_num_series=13&v_des_series=SD-SERIES&v_id_art=284 I am not sure what horn this is measured on though. Maybe you can just let me know if you think it's a worthwhile driver? Oh ya, do you think titanium is the best for the diaphragm? Thanks for your help so far! Adrian

Subject: Nice choice!
Posted by [ToFo](#) on Wed, 05 Mar 2003 21:13:44 GMT
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Adrian SD-450n looks like a great contender. If the price is right I might be interested too. 800 Hz crossover, rare earth magnet, and a 1.8" titanium diaphragm that goes out higher than I can hear, Yeah!! Build quality looks nice too. Impressive shopping Adrian! as a back up plan don't let the PA-D45 being a "PA" driver bother you. Depending on price it may remain an attractive alternative. There is nothing more "PA" than my Eminence drivers and they sound sweet. That bad association with "PA" sound is likely your objection to uncompensated radial horn frequency response. Between the great parts you are collecting and the Pi crossover, I seriously doubt you could get that sound you dread with any quality compression driver which is appropriate for the design. I think you're gonna build a winner! keep us posted! Thomas

Subject: Re: Nice choice!
Posted by [Adrian Mack](#) on Thu, 06 Mar 2003 06:26:25 GMT
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Kewl, I think I'll go with the SD-450 N then. In Australia, they are very well priced (which is nice for a change!), at AU\$215, which converts to US\$132. In the US I believe they cost a fair amount more. I'll be sure to let you know how it sounds! Thanks for your advice! Adrian! I'm going to be buying mine from www.cannonsound.com.au but if you are not in Australia then www.loudspeakersplus.com sells them, also www.speakercity.com but they don't have this model, they could probably get it in though.

Subject: Re: Nice choice!

Posted by [laxskan](#) on Tue, 22 Apr 2003 20:14:06 GMT

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Hello Just been reading your coments regarding compression drivers. I've done testing on sd-450n, bm450, d44. They all sound quite similar. The d45 is similar to the jbl 242x series. I compared to B&C, selenium, beyrna cp 380m and new beyrna cp385n. Out of all of them I liked the BM 450 the best, very smooth open and clean, especially on the P audio PH 220 horn which is very nice. The sd-450n sounded a little gritty, but not that different from the BM, they both share a similar coil assemble but obviously the sn is a neo. The beyrna cp385n is a reel ripper if your after max. spl go for that. cheersalex

Subject: Re: Nice choice!

Posted by [Adrian Mack](#) on Sun, 04 May 2003 01:55:14 GMT

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Thanks! I have not actually bought the compression drivers yet, have been finalizing all my designs. I guess its either the SD-450N or BM-450 now. Can you explain to me what the "gritty" sound of the SD-450N is like? I would rather a very nice open, clean sound, but also high output as my second want. The BM-450 is AU\$150, and the SD-450N is AU\$215. I do need the compression driver to go 800Hz though..... I dont think the BM-450 is capable of that according to the P.Audio website, with freq range of 1.5K to 18KHz. The graph however does show good output to 800Hz, would you reccomend the BM-450 is fine for 800Hz xover? Otherwise I will have to stick to the SD-450N. Thanks!Adrian
