Subject: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 01:48:38 GMT
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I've just opened the box to my Paramour kits. I've had this box here for probably two or three months now and I haven't even opened it. But I just now did, and I'm impressed!

I probably should post on the Bottlehead forum, and I think I will when I'm done. What I'm most impressed with is the documentation that Dan and Eileen put together. I would have been happy with a schematic and the parts and panels. But their documentation is written for laymen, and is quite thorough.

I'd say it is about 15 man-hours work to complete the two mono amps. Maybe 8 man-hours for a race-job, and 30 hours for a novice with an iron.

Anyway, I'll bring my Paramours. I'm assembling them exactly as the plans say, so that mine are a representation of the entry-level product, unmodified.

I'll also be bringing a Crown Microtech 2400, NAD C160 preamp and a Harman Kardon 3475

Some of you have offered to provide source equipment, fine turntables and high-quality digital players. So I'm very pleased.

On this thread, I'd like to see each of us confirm what we plan to bring and what we hope to see and do. So please reply with your equipment list, room number and your hopes and intentions. There's a little collection of comments, proposed equipment lists and schedules for the upcoming Midwest Audiofest in the post called "Things to do and see at MAF 2003."

I'll be in rooms 503 and 504, and I'll have two systems setup there. On Saturday the 12th at 2:30pm, I'll have the "Crossover Electronics 101" seminar, otherwise known as the "Lima Lab," in the East end of the North exhibit hall. Bill Epstein and Bill Martinelli will be having a woodworking seminar at 9:00am in the West end of the North exhibit hall. I'm not a morning person, but I really want to attend their seminar. There are several other interesting events as well.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Edwin on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 06:40:27 GMT
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Hi Wayne,Great news that you are finally building the 'Mours. After you have experimented with the different Pis please do post your recommendations.That, I will eagerly await :-)Best Regards,Edwin

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Matts on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 11:50:16 GMT
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Wayne,Glad you're getting at the 'mours! In keeping them entry-level, at least install the C4S that comes std w/ the kit- big step up, and don't forget to allow break-in time if you got it- takes abt 40-50 hours for them to get where they're going. I'm also waiting for your report on optimum speakers for them after you get some time on them...Good luck with them!Matts

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by BillEpstein on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 12:30:22 GMT
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Definite on the Ella and the SACD 775. Matt Anker says he's bringing his "blown" 555-ES with the Iskenderian cams and Edelbrock headers and would be glad to bring it by the Pi Rooms.I'm veneering as fast as I can. 2 speakers, 12 sides, 3 sides per day, finishing, curing time and help getting them in the truck here, don't hold your breath. And if it's rainy, no go.Martinelli, on the other hand.....

Subject: SACD's
Posted by billfort on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 17:43:58 GMT
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I'll bring along a case of SACD's.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 21:06:08 GMT
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Iskenderian - I haven't heard that name in a while. I understand they're still doing buisiness though.About your Ella and SACD units, I'd really like to hear those on the two's and seven's. So if you wouldn't mind a bit of swapping going on between friends, I'm game. Same with Matt's hot-rod 555-ES.By the way, what room are you in?

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 21:16:18 GMT
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I've got the stock kits done, and I'm going to glue together the base and power up the Paramours this evening. Right now, the weather is too good to be messing around with a soldering iron.

the stock Paramours and give it the first "taste test."What improvements do you hear with the C4S upgrade? Why do you think it was added? If you've got some links to information on the Bottlehead site or forum, I'd sure like to see them.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 21:23:09 GMT
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I'm anxious to play with the Paramours too. I've had lots of feedback from both the Bottlehead and Consonance (DIYHiFi) camps that the Theater four's and Studio two's are really great. I'll be trying lots of different speakers, but I think I'll find that speakers with woofers having low Zmax are best. Those are the ones described as being "tube friendly" on this forum. But still, I'll try all of them as time permits, and if I find any exceptions to the rule, I'll be sure to make mention of it.

Subject: Re: C4S
Posted by BillEpstein on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 22:17:42 GMT
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Measurably reduces hum and increases clarity of the upper octaves. I took that as gospel, especially the hum part, so I built in the C4S from the beginning. It took a little doing but, but I got the hum down to less than 2 mV. Audible improvement. Room number? It's the fourth parking spot from the street.

Subject: There is going to be an SACD player there!
Posted by Robert Hamel on Wed, 26 Mar 2003 22:19:25 GMT
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Wow great I don't have too many but I will bring some too.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by bmar on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 00:41:27 GMT
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Hi Guy'sGreat news about the Paramours Wayne! The tube stuff is fun. I think that I'm in room 505 but cant remember for sure. For speakers I will be bringing what I'm calling the Arezzo. It is just a simple two way consisting of a 12" woofer and 12" wood horn. There wont be any ground pounding, worm killing bass coming from my room. Just some good music. I will have my 100 watt push pull tube monoblocks for a power. Bassie pream, Denon preamp, NAD CD player with ART DI/O Tubed DAC and a Sony SACD. Also to play around with. I'll have some other wood horns. The big 21" horns with 2" drivers and some 12's and 17's. Maybe we can triamp Wayne's 7 pi's with a pair of 2" drivers and a pair of 1" drivers. See you all there!Bill

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Matts on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 16:57:01 GMT
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there's tons of posts on C4S over on the Bottlehead forum- too many to pick out a few to show you. I ran mine w/out it for a couple months & enjoyed them, but after I put it on it sounded like new amps- tighter bass, few decibels more gain, and clearer midranges and highs, reduced hum. It also maxes out the gain of the 2A3 with about half the input voltage (around .7 or .8 volts to 1.5 volts). It supplies a constant current power source to the driver tube independent of the signal, and allows the max. voltage swing to be available to take advantage of the 2A3. Like having the engine revved before you let out the clutch...If you put the C4S in right away, there's been a lot of them recently that have needed a 680-750 ohm resistor instead of one of the parallel 499-ohm resistors supplied, due to some fluctuations in the led's. If your B6 voltage is way high and B8 voltage is around 2.4 instead of 2.0, you may be a candidate to swap out this resistor. Lots on Bottlehead BBS about this, too.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by DRC on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 17:40:01 GMT
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We open no kits before their time, eh? (Said in your best john Houseman voice. ;-)I'll be directly

below you in Suite 404 with a serious heap of Audio Note gear - CD players, transports DACs, preamps, power amps, turntables, arms, cartridges, speakers, cables, etc . . . 2 complete systems up and running, and a bunch of "spare" goodies. I'll also have my Bottlehead Foreplay, "WannaGlows" and a Sony 9000ES DVD/SACD/CD/Mouse player along for fun. We can A/B your stockers against 'em. (Some very nice Mikey LevFevre iron in this pair!)I'll be bringing 3 (or more) turntables, I've decided, 2 of which will be available to "float", I think. Mucho vinyl, of course.I'll also have the oft-rumored TAD/JBL/TAD & Martinelli (Gor blimey, those horns are a beautiful sight!) beasts, still fussing with crossover choices, I'm sure.I'm really psyched for Lima, (except for the 24 hrs of driving!), can't wait to meet you guys and do some listening!
Keep your ears and your mind open.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by gonefishin on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 19:25:01 GMT
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24 hours of driving...yikes! ya better drink alota coffee! Can't wait myself :) enjoy the music!

click here to see my system

Subject: Re: C4S
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 20:13:22 GMT
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I expected that the C4S would decrease hum, but I wanted to hear the original design first. I guess I'll have to install it soon.I was really impressed both with the quality and the quantity of sound. There is a bit of hum, but the hum reduction pots bring it down quite a bit. Gives it sort of a retro-50's sound, when most equipment was powered with a diode and cap. And really, it doesn't hum that much now and I suspect that the regulator board will reduce it further.I was most interested in the bass response, because my speakers use 2226 woofers. I know that with some flea-power amps, the 2226 is a bit hard to drive. But I'm going to have to side with you and Ron that there was nothing lacking in the bottom octave in this combination. The bass was all there, all the way down, and very powerful.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA

Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 20:20:53 GMT
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Thanks for the comments. I'll watch the voltages in the driver circuit after I install the regulator. I'm not sure if I'll do it now or wait until after Lima. There will be some other guys there with Paramours in various stages of construction and modification. It might be interesting to see how they each compare to the original design.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by DRC on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 20:24:44 GMT
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Well, 12 hours each way. Nothin' compared to what I'll have to do for VSAC, I'm afraid. D-oh!
Keep your ears and your mind open.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 20:31:44 GMT
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My drive is going to be about 14 hours. You and I are going to be really tired on the first day. But at 24 hours, you're going to spend more time on the road than in the hotel. It must have been all the words of encouragement you got over on the "other place" a few days back.You're still planning on connecting some of your source equipment in my rooms, aren't you? I'm counting on you because I'm only bringing some rather generic CD players. I'll bring some vinyl and some CD's too, but I'd still like to use your turntables and transports to play 'em on.I'm really looking forward to this trip!

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 20:33:03 GMT
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Oh, I see. 12 hours each way. Then we're clocking in at the same time.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 27 Mar 2003 20:35:02 GMT
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This is gonna be a great trip, isn't it?!!I'm really looking forward to it.See you there!

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by DRC on Fri, 28 Mar 2003 12:29:53 GMT
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Hi Wayne!If it were 24 hours each way, I'd have to give the whole thing a serious re-think or get my head examined.Yeah, the HEAA experience was, ummmm, inspirational. ;-)Yes, some of the goodies will be heading your way. I haven't forgotten you!This is gonna be a blast . . .

Keep your ears and your mind open.

Subject: Re: Paramours and other goodies for LIMA
Posted by Matts on Fri, 28 Mar 2003 22:23:00 GMT
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Wayne,If you're a tube-miser, you can install the C4S boards in a mirror fashion, as you only use one triode section in each driver tube with it. Adds about 15 min. to the short process. Theory is then you can swap the tubes in the monoblocks after one side starts to go...pins 4,5,&9 are heater, then pins 1,2, and 3 correspond to pins 6,7,&8 (i.e., the triodes run in opposite directions in the tubes). Probably not a big deal either way...Glad to hear your experimenting...Matts