
Subject: Spring forward...

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 06 Apr 2003 08:41:52 GMT

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Everybody set your clocks last night? "Spring forward, fall back." That saying always reminds me of the message on the ELO album "Face the Music" - The one that was recorded backwards: "The music is reversible. Turn back, turn back, turn back." Remember that? I've been spending a lot of time with the Paramours. I gotta say that the thing I'm impressed with most is how loud they get. I know that's not the main thing, but really - it sounds like 100 watts or something. Clean. I can think of so many guitar players talking about "tube watts being more than transistor watts." I remember always thinking that tubes just acted differently when they entered clipping, and I still think that is the reason for that belief. But whatever - I can watch movies having the soundtrack piped through the Paramours with such huge impact that I absolutely don't feel that they need more power at all, not even in the bass. Big sound, huge dynamics, and thunderous bass. Just

away all the tone controls, bass boost or anything else like that. Just run it pure, a single 2A3 tube and nothing more. Thunderous bass, stunning range and huge dynamics. Now I'm using all those subjective terms I sometimes found inadequate. If I start talking about "liquid midrange" or "pinpoint imaging" I'll know I've gone too far and become intoxicated. Then again, maybe I'm already there. I can't help but to use terms like "thunderous" and "stunning." And when you consider that I'm used to running hundreds of watts to the same speakers - When I say that the dynamics are huge, I'm not kidding you. When you get 'em up to full volume - not clipping level, mind you - but clean full volume is a level where nobody in the room can talk to each other because it's just too loud.

Subject: Re: Spring forward...

Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Sun, 06 Apr 2003 09:57:45 GMT

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Wayne, I have to put my plug for the 4 Pi-pro model here even though we have been there before. First, you can't put a SET amp on a pair of JBL 2226's that have not been broken in on some high wattage solid waste amps. I have been breaking in my 2226's for around 2 years now, and still find them breaking in further all the time. I started with 250 watts/chnl for the first 6 months, then I have Dynaco ST-70 which is good performer on the 2226's, and of course my Marantz 22xx series of receivers. I have had success with my 2226J's (16 ohm) on Paramours (3 different ones) and Moth S45 amps. All of these were set up for the 8 ohm tap. I did not feel the lack of BASS that some have mentioned. I know the impedance seems to be wrong, and on my SCA-35/ST-70, will not work with wrong impedance, but the SET's did work well that way. There are those who have heard (they brought their own amps to my house), and they believe. Glad to hear you like the "Flea-power" amps, "The first watt is the most important one" Cheers, Ron

Subject: Re: Spring forward...

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 06 Apr 2003 11:08:15 GMT

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I can understand what you're saying, and I share your convictions. For a long time, I recommended the Pro series line right along with the other "tube friendly" stuff. Actually, the impedance peak isn't that large and so it seemed a natural for those that wanted the best. But there are a couple of popular SET amps that don't drive 'em as well as the others. I expect most amps will work quite nicely, certainly amps that delivers more than ten watts. And I'm definitely happy with what the Paramours do, so I agree with your observations, 100%. That's an example

I'll bet your fours are sweet, a nice size and as pure as speakers come. The sevens are really great too - they've long been my favorites - and I wish I had two corners in my listening room because I'd like to spend some time with Paramours and sevens.

Subject: Have you tried a 6550 amp yet?

Posted by [Scholl](#) on Sun, 06 Apr 2003 16:02:51 GMT

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Do it asap! I'm not bullshitting! IT will save a lot of time and effort. The Paramour is a great amp but the 2226H really likes a push pull 6550 the best, maybe a 8417 amp, I won't go there. I've run the following amps: SE: The Noreaster 572-10 with 811-10 and -3 variations 6b4G5881EL3465506L6GC Sorry no 300Bs but the Noreaster will most likely be refit with 300Bs when the 572-10s go bad. All with various iron and designs some mine some other folks. Push pull: HEath aa-151 stock and modded Many different Fisher and Scott integrateds and receivers Eico HF20s stock Push Pull 6B4G with Scott iron and Eico HF20 iron Interstage and LTP phase splitters. Dynaco ST70HK Citation 2Bogen MO200s stock and modded with EL34s Bogen KO100s Stock and with minor power supply mods A EL34 amp using Stancor iron and modified Mulard design to the "T" Sansui Q50s (A great amp pair if you can find them) Mac 40s6C45s on a Seares chassis. Again some of the amps were\are mine some other folks. Solid state: several classic Kenwoods KA601s, KA6100, KA7100 An NAD integrated Sorry not much solid state comes into my house. You get the point 7 years of all kinds of tube amps in many topologies in several rooms at several houses. Just borrow a push pull 6550 amp from someone and stop pussy-footing around. You'll be shopping for one the next day. The 2226H just seems to click with these tubes, great synergy.

Subject: Push-pull tube amps

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 06 Apr 2003 21:27:38 GMT

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The push-pull amp is great advice. I've heard a lot of good comments like this from those that have run push-pull tube amps with a little more power. There are a lot of happy people who own

Subject: 6550 Push-pull tube amps
Posted by [Scholl](#) on Mon, 07 Apr 2003 09:47:35 GMT
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This is very specific although I'd bet KT88s would work as well or better. Small amps and SE amps do well but 6550s bring out the most from 2226Hs. Try it you'll like it.

Subject: Made my day!
Posted by [Paul Joppa](#) on Mon, 07 Apr 2003 23:57:28 GMT
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Thanks for the enthusiasm, Wayne! I check this forum only occasionally, maybe once a month or so just to stay in touch with what's going on. I come by today, and here's this great post about my baby - it sure made my day! (For those who don't know, I did the electronic design of the Paramour for Bottlehead.) Thanks.

Subject: Re: Made my day!
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 08 Apr 2003 05:28:37 GMT
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It's an absolutely wonderful design. I really like it a lot, it's simple and just fine in stock trim. I've got the C4S kit but didn't put it in yet. I've just about decided that I want to keep one pair of monoblocks stock, and maybe buy another kit to upgrade, to see the differences between stock and improved. As far as I'm concerned, the Paramours are nice little amps, right out of the box. I'll have your baby in Lima, and I hope to meet you there.

Subject: Hoo Boy! ...Have you got some fun in store for you!

Posted by [Garland](#) on Tue, 08 Apr 2003 14:06:19 GMT

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Wayne, The Paramours' circuit is so clean and simple that any change to them is readily apparent, especially through high efficiency loudspeakers! Peruse the archives on the Bottlehead Forum and see all the things that folks have done to/with these big/little amps. Have fun at Lima! Hope I can make it some year! Garland

Subject: Re: Made my day!

Posted by [Paul Joppa](#) on Tue, 08 Apr 2003 14:07:55 GMT

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Glad you like it, that is a big boost for me! The C4S is currently considered "stock," you might call it version 1.1 with the SRPP driver as version 1.0. It was added for several reasons, one of which is to reduce hum which is getting in from the power supply. If you like the SRPP driver, and the hum is OK, then you are fine. If there is a little too much hum, there are several other options to reduce it. Any Paramour owner is invited to ping me (pj@bottlehead.com) or post on the Bottlehead forum if you want to pursue any of them.

Subject: Re: Made my day!

Posted by [Matts](#) on Wed, 09 Apr 2003 19:49:57 GMT

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Wayne-You're exactly how I was- I was so happy with the Paramours as originally built that I didn't install the C4S for several months. However, when I did, I saw why they made it part of the stock kit...it was a major improvement! Enjoy 'em! Matts
