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Subject: Theater Pi 4 bass response

Posted by [Neo](#) on Mon, 30 Jun 2003 21:20:24 GMT

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I built my Theater 4 Pi's almost a year ago. I really like their sound but the bass has always been less than I want. The only changes I made to the design, was to use Acousta Foam from Parts Express rather than fiber-glass and I didn't stop at doing only three sides. I did all sides except the front where the drivers are mounted using the 1.5" foam. At first I did only the three sides, but after listening some and not finding the clarity in the mid-range, I padded the other 2 sides. They are now very nice in the midrange and highs, but I would like more bass. I've got some powered sub-woofers hooked up now, but they don't always sound right... a little sloppy sounding sometimes. I also have rebuilt the crossover using an Alpha Core flat wire inductor (same gauge wire as original) in series with the woofer and Auricaps for the tweeter. I don't have an SPL meter, but the bass seems much less than the Bottlehead Straight 8's. Have I done something wrong?  
?Tom

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Subject: Re: Theater Pi 4 bass response

Posted by [BillEpstein](#) on Mon, 30 Jun 2003 22:06:16 GMT

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Having noted the many too little/too much/just right bass opinions for the 4's as well as the too much/too little.....etc. with the EL-34 Ella's and the too much, blah, blah for the Paramours; the following: Bass is in the ears of the beholder. Musical genre, room characteristics, source, amplification, crossover parts, wires (maybe) and cabinet construction in descending order all play a part. Get what YOU need.

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Subject: Re: Theater Pi 4 bass response

Posted by [mikebake](#) on Mon, 30 Jun 2003 22:50:02 GMT

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I would agree, and perhaps interchange 1 and 2. The room is SO much of every system equation. Bill, did you read Rod Elliott's article Wayne linked? A quote from the end of the article....."Human hearing is very adept at picking the original sound from the reverberant field, provided the early reflections are not so early that they influence the direct sound. Given the highly reverberant listening rooms of some people, I have difficulty understanding how that can even tell what anything really sounds like - yet they will happily espouse their theories on what makes the sound better, ignoring the fact that their room will destroy the sound of any loudspeaker. Finally, the quality of much of the recorded material available is absolutely woeful. Equalised to within an inch of its life (so it will sound "good" on crappy systems), compressed,

"aurally excited" (ptooey!), and generally mangled beyond all recognition. To be sure, quality recordings are available, but are they available from your favourite artist(s)? Usually not, so you either have to change your musical tastes to experience a decent recording, or put up with the rubbish that is often the only version of the artist/ song available. I have so many CDs and vinyl recordings that I find unlistenable on a decent system that it's not funny - for one CD, I have to switch off my subwoofer, or all my windows will fall"BTW, dude, what have you been up to? Latest project??MBB

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Subject: Re: Theater Pi 4 bass response

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 01 Jul 2003 05:47:47 GMT

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I'm sure you've taken care of this long ago, but just to be sure - Did you install the right tweeter circuit? I remember we discussed this last July and you said you had wired up the tweeter circuit wrong. If you fixed that, then I expect you may be just craving a speaker having lower bass

using a pair of 2245's and making subwoofers out of those.

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Subject: Re: Theater Pi 4 bass response

Posted by [Neo](#) on Tue, 01 Jul 2003 11:59:31 GMT

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Hi Wayne, Thanks for your JBL 2245 suggestion. Is there a little cheaper Eminance alternative ? Or can used 2245's be found. Also, the Pi 4's already take up alot of room, so I'd like as small a solution as possible. Right now I'm using a pair of powered 10" subwoofers that go under my BESL series 5 monitors (Bamberg engineering sound labs).Not bad sounding but alittle sloppy sometimes. And yes, I've corrected the tweeter crossover circuit. I forgot, it's been awhile. My Pi 4 and Parabee combo sounds wonderful and keeps sounding better as things breakin. Tom

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Subject: Re: Theater Pi 4 bass response

Posted by [jtsjf](#) on Tue, 01 Jul 2003 12:22:12 GMT

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Neo, Similarly, I thought the highs were a bit too much on my Theater 4pis after I put them together. I just replaced one of the resistors in the tweeter circuit with a higher value, and that, as they say, was that. Now they are just about perfect...for my room...for my amps...etc..etc... So, could it be that the speakers are too bright, instead of lacking in bass?Cheers,Jason

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Subject: Re: Theater Pi 4 bass response  
Posted by [Neo](#) on Tue, 01 Jul 2003 15:02:16 GMT  
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Jason, Thanks for the input... The highs and mids seems good to very-good... On some stuff it seems like there could be more shimmer to cymbals and more snar to the snar drum, but vocals are right-on. The bass on classical is 'okay', but on some rock like Pink Floyd and some Blues stuff like Buddy Guy where strong bass is a fundemental part of the experiance - I want more bass.Tom

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Subject: Just curious...  
Posted by [Garland](#) on Tue, 01 Jul 2003 17:44:34 GMT  
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...what resistor did you swap out and what value went in? I think Neo's problem is probably room related but the balance of freq. responce is vital to the enjoyment of music. If rock is your thing and the system doesn't do it right you know it!!! I tried adding a bit of inductance to the woofer's crossover and got what I thought was a pleasing balance of tone only to find after a while that the music was dulled and lacked some excitement. Out came the added coil and the music came back alive. Anyway, in my room the Theater 4's can be a bit too much on some recordings, sounding bright and in your face. Other recordings of similar music sound perfect! G.

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Subject: Re: Theater Pi 4 bass response  
Posted by [jtsjf](#) on Tue, 01 Jul 2003 18:04:46 GMT  
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Tom, When I increased the resistor value on the tweeter (I don't remember the exact values- I think I replaced a 10R with a 50R...), it didn't change the sound much, just increased the bass relative to the tweeter. So, if you're not happy with the upper frequencies- the shimmer to the cymbals, etc. it may not be worth your time. On a heavier note, the song I like to listen to for bass is 'Flight of the Cosmic Hippo' by Bela Fleck. LOL, now that's some bass.I've never heard the straight eights, so I'm kind of speaking in a vacuum here.Good Luck,Jason

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Subject: 'Flight of the Cosmic Hippo' ... I gotta try that

Posted by [Neo](#) on Tue, 01 Jul 2003 22:27:36 GMT

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Thanks Jason. Always open for good music suggestions. When I put my ear close to the tweeter and then the woofer, the tweeter definitely effects way above what I think of as the 'mid-range'. I found the high-end of the woofer range 1000-1600 cps to be more than I like so I did what I just read Garland did... I've added .5mh in series with the woofer inductor. For me it fixed the 'problem'. According to my ear doctor, my hearing drops off sharply after 3000 cps. And looking at the graph he drew, I was most sensitive around 1500-2000 cps. These are very rough charts I think, but it seems confirm what sounds best to me with the changes I made. My current subwoofers sound damn good. I'm gonna go listen some more. See ya, Tom

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Subject: Re: 'Flight of the Cosmic Hippo' ... I gotta try that

Posted by [jtsjf](#) on Wed, 02 Jul 2003 11:06:05 GMT

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I hope you enjoy that passage. I do have to warn you that it's kind of weird bluegrass-jazz, and Bela Fleck plays the banjo. Not for the faint of heart- it's NPR music, LOL. The tweeter output is above what I consider midrange as well. But padding that output down a bit allowed me to hear more of the lower frequencies. I can't explain it very well, and it sounds like we may be talking about different aspects of the sound. But also to put this in perspective, I use 300B amps and a highly modified forplay preamp. I have no idea how good or sensitive my hearing is. Probably lousy, since I've been riding motorcycles for 25 years. At least I wear earplugs nowadays. Well, not when I'm listening to music...cheers, Jason

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Subject: Try UFO TOFU also from Bela. nt

Posted by [Robert Hamel](#) on Wed, 02 Jul 2003 11:33:16 GMT

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Subject: Re: Theater Pi 4 bass response

Posted by [Robert Hamel](#) on Wed, 02 Jul 2003 11:41:49 GMT

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Yeah have to agree with you there. The room is key so is the box tuning. Seems to me Wanyes boxes are tight so there is not much boom or bloom to begin with. So its either you are used to too much bass blur from the sloppy tuning or its so much more than that 8 incher that you can't get used to the real power down there when you hear the real thing. I just don't think most systems/rooms really do bass right in the first place. Frankly my right you might may not be your right. JMHO

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Subject: What size coil did you add and take out ? (nt)

Posted by [Neo](#) on Wed, 02 Jul 2003 16:51:27 GMT

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Subject: I rode motorcycles too...

Posted by [Neo](#) on Wed, 02 Jul 2003 16:58:58 GMT

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and I'm sure it didn't help my hearing, but I think breaking-in model airplane motors with no muffler when I was in high-school was worse... but I love the sound of a 2 stroke winding up. I'm using a set of Parabee 300b's now myself. Before that it was a Paramour 2A3. See ya, Tom

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Subject: .39mH Alpha Core (nt)

Posted by [Garland](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2003 14:03:46 GMT

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