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Subject: Wanna hear something funny?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2003 03:57:17 GMT

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This evening, a couple of guys were over and we were cooking out on the grille. My son pulls out instant, I think back and realize just how often this has happened over the past few

on a huge power amp. But my seventeen-year-old son is listening to the system with the SET amp with increasing regularity. And I've noticed that his friends are doing it too. Just last year, he wanted the boom-boom subwoofer for the car. Now it seems that he's growing more fond of SET's on horns. And I haven't really influenced him, other than to have the system available and setup. I wouldn't have expected Michael or his friends to use the system. In fact, I was under this impression so strongly that the times I've noticed them using tube amps, I've assumed it was just a matter of convenience - being in the same room - or maybe it was a curiosity or a novelty. But that doesn't explain their repeated choice of triodes. There really can be only one explanation. This is a group of high-school kids that are diggin' their favorite music on tubes and horns. Go figure.

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Subject: Re: Wanna hear something funny?

Posted by [jlharden](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2003 12:38:39 GMT

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Hi Wayne! Smart kids there! Took me into my very early twenties before I followed the path of horns and tubes. Looking back I feel like I've been afflicted with an incurable illness. I just can't seem to shake the horn bug! Take care, Jerrodbtw....the Pi Speakers page facelift looks great!

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Subject: Re: Wanna hear something funny?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2003 13:31:05 GMT

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I'm a monster fan of power amps for headroom, but due to recent experiments with my 103db sensitivity planars, some day in the future I want to experiment with low powered solutions - for casual listening vs. creating a concert for the neighborhood .. gets worse, as if one tweeter is not enough, I want to line source four of these per side. That said, what are the SET amplifiers of choice, preferably something low noise as high sensitivity HF drivers tend to magnify the faults of electronic gear /hehe/ ///// hisssss ///

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Subject: Re: Doesn't surprise me...  
Posted by [Matts](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2003 13:47:23 GMT  
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My teenagers love the SET, and their taste in music has expanded exponentially since building Paramours and 2Pis. They come in and listen to music now and rarely watch tv! My 20-yr. old son's friends come over to listen to it all the time and they even thought the new SACD Dark Side of the Moon sounded incredible on it. Come to think of it, in my house growing up in late 50s early 60s, my Dad built tube (mono, then stereo) electronics and bass reflex speakers, good equipment, and we listened to music all the time. Then, after he succumbed to progress- transistors & AR speakers, we gradually stopped listening as much. Too bad he's not around now to enjoy the comeback!

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Subject: Re: Wanna hear something funny?  
Posted by [DRC](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2003 15:15:46 GMT  
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Funny, but gives one hope. The 18 year old who asked me to help him with his car stereo project listens to rap, hiphop, stuff I don't ever expect to "get", but he about fell out of his chair listening to Santana on tubes and my audiophile ed Pi 4's. His 22 year old sister digs Ella and swing jazz, and wants to make her way to the tubes/horn sound, too. (Tough in a dorm room, but she'll get there.) My 13 year old daughter likes to come to the shop and sing along with Simon and Garfunkel, and Lyle Lovett's "Penguin Song" is one of my ten year old son's favorites. Keep the tubes bright, keep the joint jumpin', and keep musical hope alive! Keep your ears and your mind open.

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Subject: Retro is where it is at - even if the tube amps are modern day!  
Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2003 15:17:05 GMT  
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Wayne, I have finally procured a NorH SE-9 amp (Single-Ended-Pentode/EL34) and have approx 50 hours of burn-in on the amp. This amp is not a SET killer, but for money (and not a kit-I put speakers together primarily), I found the soundstage and tonal qualities to be great except for the HF end which I might be able to rectify. Biggest downfall except for the HF rolloff, is the 4 and 8 ohm taps. If there are new tube amps being manufactured currently, they should take into account the fact that many of us prefer 16 ohm vintage speakers. If you buy a tube amp for lower impedance speakers, that is fine, but have you ever heard a well tuned 16 ohms speaker system on tubes???? Speaker wire can be thinner, and I may be wrong, but I like the soundstage better. So I will be forced to put a 8 ohm system together since I am tired of running the 20 ohm resistor (in parallel) with my 16 ohm speakers system, the SE-9 does not like impedance mismatch

"AT ALL"! Just took the Edgar horns off the system and put the Martinelli horns back up(have swapped several times just for the different sound of each of them). I will have to try my old Altec 811's back on for comparison. Later all, Ron

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Subject: Re: Wanna hear something funny?

Posted by [GrantMarshall](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2003 17:24:37 GMT

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My funny story of the week is that my son had a couple of speakers I built (not Pi's) facing at 90 degrees to each other and had surround sound on his amp. I told him to switch it to stereo. He hit a button but the middle speaker was still where the sound was at. I told him to change it to stereo. His response was "I did". I had him stand where I was standing. It sounded like the middle speaker was making the sound to him as well. We ended up having a discussion about "sweet spots". He proceeded to rearrange his room and the speakers aren't facing at 90 degrees any more. I've been looking at comments on High Efficiency forum about where audio is at. There is an education process required before the younger gang knows what to look for. It sounds like your family has been getting it as well Wayne. BTW Nice new look to the site. Grant.

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Subject: Re: Wanna hear something funny?

Posted by [wasteh202](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2003 22:19:59 GMT

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I would like to find out more about the 103db planars. Can you tell me more about these speakers. I am not familiar with any planars that are this sensitive, thank you

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Subject: Re: Wanna hear something funny?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2003 02:09:05 GMT

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<http://www.stageaccompany.com/cdload.html><http://home.pacbell.net/lordpk/speaker/photo.html> \$600 ea., buy direct from the distributor. The enclosures I had custom made, work in progress. Next month, if all goes well, I should have eight of these bad boys for a small line source of four per channel which by the way is pure madness. I did some tests recently and one tweeter is more than enough for the home, but lunice inside me wants to run the monster system with eight total... Just like Wayne says.. top fuel dragster of tweeters... the potential for extreme clean SPL is there if

your handturns the volume knob, but if you discipline, no need to drive them to those levels. There is a waveguide option for 107db sensitivity, but you lose the nice flat response and it's not really needed for home use. These are my favorite tweeters, non-horn - which to me, has a better sonic character than compression drivers mated with horns. I've abused the SA tweeter with 600w of bridged power and it still hold up.. Not that the tweeter dissipates 600w, it's only rated for 60w rms, 2kw peak (short term bursts), but the headroom gained by bridging (raising the clipping levels) is pretty impressive... This tweeter is used by Stage Accompany in their pro sound and cinema systems, where in some designs they may or may not use the waveguide. Another tweeter similar to this is the sls loudspeaker PRD ribbons, which I was told is not available for DIY'ers..

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Subject: Thank you... another question  
Posted by [wasteh202](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2003 15:37:59 GMT  
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What do you use to keep the LF from these ribbon planars? I might be interested in bi-amping such a driver if it required no XO. Do you know if this will work? What are you using with the ribbon below 1000hz? Thanks

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Subject: Re: Thank you... another question  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 06 Aug 2003 00:19:36 GMT  
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My system is work in progress and everything will be active crossovers. Stage Accompany told me this about the crossover. =====  
====="13 ohms is indeed the best impedance value to start your calculations. We use as crossover frequency mostly about 1300-1400Hz 1st order, and don't worry too much about damaging the unit in home stereo. As long as you keep the average voltage below 27Vrms there will be no problems. This means a peak voltage capability of your amp of 86Vrms (925W@8ohms)."DeHaan@StageAccompany.com =====  
===== The Griffin Loudspeaker uses the SA8535 driver. <http://www.griffinspeaker.com/> Their crossover is; 1700 Hz, Linkwitz-Riley 4th order acoustic, No passive equalization. During my listening tests, even though the driver is able to go lower, I still prefer any tweeter to be crossed over at around 2kHz plus or minus. For crazy SPL, I will use 2.5kHz 3rd order because that is what I have right now, later I will use a better and more flexible active crossover. The midrange that I like to mate with this beast is the 8" PHL2520, 100db sensitivity. I heard good things about the 10" midrange - PHL3450 (3451) from Andre at e-speakers.com it's 101db sensitivity. I think these two midranges would be optimal for great sonic impact of the music, but as you see, the Griffin uses dual Seas Excel probably with more power to drive the lower sensitivity drivers. Using the PHL has tradeoffs, it's only useable down to 200-300hz, so you need to find a low pass 300hz solution (some type of bass subsystem).. I struggled with this solution last year. Since I want to line source four SA and four PHL 8" per

channel, I need ideally maybe four 15" woofers, but only three woofers will fit the house (hehe)... Tech doc. [http://www.stageacompany.com/download/files/product/techdoc\\_sa8535.pdf](http://www.stageacompany.com/download/files/product/techdoc_sa8535.pdf) Using this driver down to 1300 - 1400hz as mentioned by SA, is probably the lowest you want to go, but I would imagine you can drop this down to 1khz if you keep the power minimal. I was driving this driver with about 19 milliwatts directly off my portable el'cheap Sony CD player (headphone jacks), and it worked. Not much spl, but I can hear the sounds from 5 feet away and using no crossover. Two of these drivers strapped to someone's head would make cool headphones (hahah), even a few watts would drive this nicely, probably with no crossover. /heh

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