Subject: Decisions, Decisions!
Posted by Castlesteve on Sat, 01 May 2004 20:52:26 GMT
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I`m trying to decide which speakers to buy to replace my single driver Fostex speakers. I can afford to go up to about $400 a side. I`m going to be using a new 300B push pull amp giving me about 20 watts to play with. I like the size of the Stage 4s which would look good in my 28 by 12 room. What is the sonic differences between the Thermionic, Stage and Theater series? How will these compare to the Fostex single drivers? Thanks, Steve.

Subject: Re: Decisions, Decisions!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 02 May 2004 08:59:47 GMT
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Single drivers are a different breed. I really like the Fostex 206e, but I haven't heard others that I could identify. I mean, I've probably heard others but didn't know what I was listening to. But I'm reasonably familiar with the Fostex 206e in large vented and transmission line speakers, and I like

same on the bottom end, but all the larger speakers go deeper than single drivers can. The other thing is that you really can't push a 20 watt part very loud, so dynamic range is limited. Twenty watts is about 13dB over one watt, so whatever the W/M sensitivity of the single driver is, add

compare them. But that also assumes that you drive them with some power.Considering that you'll use a low power tube amp, that takes the dynamic range issue away. You're not going to hit the speaker with 100 watts, so that's a non-issue. That leaves you with bass response. In this

it's horn-loaded through most of the audio range, so that's an attractive option too.The Theater

when belted with a couple hundred watts. So it does well at both low power and high power levels, is very versatile and sounds great too. The Thermionics are also very popular, but they are

as much power.I really like the Stage Series, but I don't recommend them for use with tube amps. It is great when you have a powerful system, and it sounds nice at medium and high power levels. But it isn't particularly "tube friendly." I will say that Stage Series speakers sound excellent on Bottlehead Paramour amplifiers, but that is an unusual situation. Most amps will not like the load, and will have reduced and/or peaky bass when used with Stage Series speakers.

Subject: Re: Decisions, Decisions!
Posted by Castlesteve on Sun, 02 May 2004 14:10:28 GMT

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Hi Wayne. Thanks for the reply. I`m trying like a lot of folks to keep the cabinet size down to pacify the other half. I have an existing pair of homemade 2.5 cu ft bass reflex cabinets which i could retro fit the Pi 2 drivers into. Is this likely to work? They are well made cabinets with bracing and a 1.5" ply/mdf shell. I can adjust the port size. I`m wondering however if the horn drivers are better sounding than the piezo tweeters and if i should attempt some kind of a hybrid design. What do you think? Steve.

Subject: Re: Decisions, Decisions!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 02 May 2004 14:40:27 GMT
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The Alpha 10 will work very nicely in a 2.5ft3 box tuned to 40Hz. That's close to the volume of the

with it coming online at 3.5kHz, the Alpha 10 is required to work up that high. It does so, and is actually pretty loud at that frequency. So you really want to be sure to add the 0.5mH coil to tame it there just a bit.But I'm pretty find of those speakers. I'd say go for it.

Subject: Re: Decisions, Decisions!
Posted by jeffh on Wed, 05 May 2004 02:33:00 GMT
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Wayne,I noticed that you mentioned a new 8-pi speaker. I didn't see it on the site. Is there some info available on that design yet? I'm really interested in a horn and have looked at Fostex designs for my little 8w monoblocks.

Subject: Re: Decisions, Decisions!
Posted by jeffh on Wed, 05 May 2004 02:41:20 GMT
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OK,I saw the other posts on the 8-pi. Please let me know when you have that available and what the kit price will be. Also, the cabinet size will still be important if I try to sneak it by my wife. I mentioned to her tonight that I may move the MBOW1s up to our bedroom. As expected, she wasn't thrilled by the thought of huge speakers in the family room. I did read correctly that these are tube friendly?Thanks

Subject: Re: Decisions, Decisions!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 05 May 2004 12:17:28 GMT
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They're very tube friendly, but also pretty large at about 6ft3. That isn't huge but it isn't really small either. They're two feet wide and three feet tall, and they'll fit snugly into corners so they aren't intrusive. They also won't require corner placement, but will be shaped so that it is a good option. Price for a kit is great, just $225.00. I'm about ready to make plans available, and should have 'em done by the end of the week. We have all the parts for kits in stock except for the coils, which I expect later this week too.