
Subject: Curious about Chip Amps?

Posted by [Garland garland](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 16:50:23 GMT

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I just splurged a whole \$35 on the little Sonic Impact 15W/ch class-T amp from Target (on-line only) and powered by my 2amp DC power supply this thing sounds pretty darn amazing. Very quiet and dynamic with very detailed bass and transparent midrange. Good handling of sibilants and seems effortless with my Theater 4s. Only criticism at this point(only 3 hours break-in) is somewhat recessed high freqs. Compared to my modded Bottlehead Paramours, the chip amp is more transparent but lacks the last little bit of musical liveliness. Also the sound can be a bit hollow or plastic sounding with some recordings but I suspect that this is, indeed, the sound of the mikes used in the recording studio. All in all, this little amp is one of the best I've ever heard!!! Truly hard to believe, but for \$35 plus a 12V power supply you can't go wrong.Garland

Subject: Re: Curious about Chip Amps?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 18:53:09 GMT

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That's pretty cool, Garland, thanks! What's the URL where you bought this kit online?

Subject: Re: Curious about Chip Amps?

Posted by [Garland garland](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 19:12:44 GMT

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Hi Wayne,This isn't a kit. It is one of the cheesiest looking things you've ever seen and wait 'till you pick it up! - all of a few ounces!Well worth hearing though!G.

Target

Subject: Re: Curious about Chip Amps?

Posted by [Bill R](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 19:45:55 GMT

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Garland, hello!They are very load dependant. As the impedance drops, the top frequencies are shelved. Most chip amps do not like a drop below 6 ohms. Perhaps you may need to look at the impedance curve of your loudspeakers AND cables and see where the dip is and see if this is recessing the top. those amplifiers with proper load provide exceptional phase and bandwidth power response.Look at the impedance curve.Wish you well fellow!

Subject: Re: Curious about Chip Amps?

Posted by [Garland garland](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 20:05:44 GMT

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Thanks for the feed back. As per the impedance of the Pi Theater 4s I'd have to refer to Wayne but I believe they are fairly tame and flat. Yes, Wayne? ...and as per the cables I'm using single bi-wire runs of 26 awg magnet wire; each run is 8 feet. Not sure on the capacitance of this wire but I'd think it is fairly low. And one other comment: this hi freq issue may well be recording dependent. I may also be acclimated to some upper midrange distortion which may be gone with the chip amp and therefore the "lack" of the sensation of robust highs.G.

Subject: Re: Curious about Chip Amps?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 22:29:03 GMT

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1.6kHz.

Subject: Re: Curious about Chip Amps?

Posted by [Chris R](#) on Fri, 25 Jun 2004 14:38:49 GMT

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I wonder if this thing is a wideband switching power supply (PWM amp). At a pound, there isn't much left for a heat sink. I built a single chip amp using a National 3886 or something like that, but it needed a substantial heat sink and +-28Vdc. It does work pretty well, though.

Subject: Re: Curious about Chip Amps?

Posted by [wasteh202](#) on Sun, 27 Jun 2004 03:39:32 GMT

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Garland Thanks for your post about the chip amp. I bought a Griffer Powerwave amp a couple months back. I also was very impressed with it. I paid much more than you did for the Target... I think about \$100.00 total. My digital amp has only 10wpc. My findings were similar to yours. I was extremely pleased with the bass from an amp that had only 10wpc. VERY GOOD BASS ! Mine is stock but these things are being modded. I hooked the powerwave to my computer and my 2Pi towers to the Powerwave.. WOW ! Nearfield listening with the Powerwave and the Towers was quite reveling ! Also as you said... the highs were rolled off. Not a problem for me as my Towers

are a bit too bright for me. My Powerwave worked best with the computer. For some reason when I connected the digital amp to my preamp and source... I got a slight hum through my speaker. Not a bad one... but noticeable enough to bother me in between tracks. I believe it is only a matter of time and the digital amp will pretty much replace tube and SS amps. Smaller, lighter and cheaper.... and sound good too... how can you lose ? Mine even has a nice pretty blue light that glows for the tube lovers out there that want something pretty to look at while listening to their favorite artist.

Subject: Re: the hum.

Posted by [GarlandGarland](#) on Sun, 27 Jun 2004 12:41:00 GMT

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I had originally played the amp through my Foreplay 12AU7 preamp and found that with the preamps volume set in the high output range and the pot on the amp(100K) set low that hum was negligible but with the amp pot upped and the preamp turned down there was considerable hum and buzz. Ground loop problem? The amp sounds good straight in from the CDP though. -Very transparent but reveals a bit too much of the CDs inherent problems. G.
