Subject: Great Plains July 2004 Audio Club meeting photos
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 02:35:39 GMT
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Yesterday, the Great Plains Audio Club meeting was held at my house, and we really had a great time. Chuck Adamson made some brisket, and it was spectacular. In attendence was Akhilesh Bajaj, Phil Wilson, Forrest Merrill, Bill Wassilak, Chuck Adamson, Rachelle Randall, Katya Soden, John Barnes, Mike Anderson, Alona and I.

Chuck cuts the brisket and Akhilesh and the rest of us can hardly wait!

Phil Wilson digs in!

Left to right: Bill Wassilak, Chuck Adamson, Rachelle Randall, Alona Parham, Katya Soden, Akhilesh Bajaj and John Barnes

Asusa, Stoetkit and Paramours

The amps we reviewed included Akhilesh's Asusa (left), the Stoetkit (right), my Paramours (behind) and Phil Wilson's Zen Select amp (not shown). We also listened to Bill Wassilak's Leslie amplifier, but each of the others was a current production tube amplifier kit in the same price range, so they were used for comparison.

has an Eminence Omega 15, which is notoriously hard for low power SET amps to drive. So between the music material chosen and the speaker load, this was a difficult test for each of the amplifiers.

Akhilesh, Phil, Forrest and Mike

We listened to each amplifier using the same complex orchestral musical passage, which was

pretty demanding. Honestly, you would probably expect two watt SET amps to have a difficult time with this kind of music, but they all did very well. Each of the amps except the Stoetkit was a SET design, and they all sounded very nice. I think most people would be very happy with any of them.

We unanimously agreed that all the amplifiers performed admirably. In fact, the general consensus was that no amplifier was significantly better or worse, they were all quite good. Each has it's subtle strengths and weaknesses, but none were glaring in either a positive or negative sense.

I was pleased with the performance of each of them. I personally prefer the Stoetkit, and others did as well. But this is mostly because it is capable of greater output. It sounds great too, so it isn't just that it's louder. At the one watt level we were using them at, they all sounded pretty similar, really.

The Zen Select did what most people know it for, which is nice midrange. But much to my surprise, it had no trouble at all delivering the bass. It sounded very good across the spectrum.

The Paramours are generally a little bit noisier, but they have strong bass. But in this case, the bass seemed to be about the same as the Zen, maybe a little stronger, and the hum was very low.

The Asusa is a real sleeper, and I wish it was still made. It has bass as strong as the Paramours, and it sounded to me like it had a little more control than either of the other SET's.

But for my ears, the Stoetkit had the best control in the bass, and even though these days the SET configuration is often given the reputation of having pure midrange, the Stoetkit sounded best there too. Not by a mile or anything, but I still liked it best. And like I said earlier, the best part is that it delivers four times more power, so it can be run harder and louder without strain. That's important to me, particularly with complex music.

For those that are interested, Akhilesh Bajaj wrote a detailed review of the Stoetkit on his website.

We also listened to Bill Wassilak's tube amp that he rescued from an old Leslie speaker. He mentioned that he might use it for a subwoofer amp, and it sounds like it will work well for that. It has plenty of power and the treble is rolled off. That probably worked well for organs, even helping to have reduced treble by serving to reduce organ key clicks.

Katya Soden, Chuck Adamson and Alona Parham

Mike Anderson and Rachelle Randall

Chuck Adamson and Bill Wassilak

Alona and I are sure glad everyone came!

Subject: Re: Audio Club meeting - Party On, Wayne!
Posted by wunhuanglo on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 09:58:58 GMT
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Looks like a real good time.

Subject: Re: Great Plains July 2004 Audio Club meeting photos
Posted by James W. Johnson on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 13:18:15 GMT
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Looks like fun Wayne and those 7 Pis are very cool looking!

Subject: Re: Great Plains July 2004 Audio Club meeting photos
Posted by humble pie on Mon, 12 Jul 2004 13:29:40 GMT
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Looks like you guys had a great time. Wayne you are one lucky guy. Alona is one beautiful woman. She kicks the Gilmore girl's butt. Gotta love a woman that looks like that and lets her man get into his love of audio. Best of both worlds.

Subject: Re: Great Plains July 2004 Audio Club meeting photos
Posted by spkrman57 on Wed, 14 Jul 2004 19:47:12 GMT
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Wayne, Looks like a great get-together there. Wish I was closer and could have dropped in. I read your forum from time to time, but free time to post and participate more is limited currently. Cheers, Ron

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