
Subject: more altec pi issues

Posted by [EZ_Angus](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 14:06:59 GMT

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Ok, I got my circular mini-baffles cut and the hole cut in my front cab panel. now I need to bolt the driver to the baffle and then woodscrew the baffle to the front panel, right? Do people use rubber or neoprene washers for bolting the drivers? anyone know where to get black bolts and screws? It seems like for mounting the (heavy) baffle to the front panel, more screws is better than less (words to live by :^) but how many is enough? 8? 12? 16? EZ

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues

Posted by [Tightwad](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 17:46:54 GMT

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I like bolting the drivers to the front baffle. Just a regular metal washer between the nut and the wood. For attaching the baffle to the enclosure, I would use threaded inserts, if you have enough wood. In both cases, use loctite (or equivalent). A reasonable hardware store ought to have black bolts. Ask the dude about it, they might be stashed away somewhere out of sight.

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues

Posted by [EZ_Angus](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 19:59:47 GMT

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Hi tightwad thanks for your very helpful response. threaded inserts would be great as that would allow for repeated mounting / dismounting without losing the tight connection. my baffle is 3/4" and my front panel is 3/4". I've never used these guys, will it work? any suggestions about size or where to get them? loctite is a great idea. never heard of it before but i looked it up and it stops the connection from loosening? can you still unscrew / unbolt them?

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 20:55:20 GMT

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I stock 1" long #8 black wood screws, so let me know if you need 'em and I'll mail you out some. For sealing purposes, there are a number of different gasket materials you can use. If the joint is two flat surfaces, a cardboard gasket works well and it is easy to install and remove. Silicon and caulking materials form a good seal, but they often stain wood and are harder to clean

and remove.

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues
Posted by [Tightwad](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 21:07:11 GMT
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I recently used threaded inserts on a turntable project (see photos). Basically, figure out what size screw/bolt you want, then get the size of threaded insert to match the screw. Test on a piece of scrap first, make sure you're drilling the right sized hole. Again, the hardware store ought to have them. The detail photo shows one of them, albeit blurry. Loctite is a liquid that dries to rubber-like consistency, whenever you have metal-to-metal contact it helps prevent loosening due to vibration. The medium-strength stuff unscrews pretty easily, it's not permanent. Best of luck with your project. I'll bet it will sound fantastic.

Subject: BTW . . .
Posted by [Tightwad](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 21:17:38 GMT
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The discoloration around the threaded insert is NOT from the insert, but because I mounted the turntable before the shellac had dried sufficiently.

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues
Posted by [Matts](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 21:31:57 GMT
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I like using these threaded inserts too. I use them with black hex-head machine bolts- they have a small head that fits into the speaker nicely and is very unobtrusive, but cool and industrial looking if look at it closely. LOTS of options, though, if you find a good old-fashioned hardware store.

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues
Posted by [Tightwad](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 21:36:38 GMT
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Yup, those little black allen bolts are cool, I use 'em too. If you don't have a removable side, getting

to the nuts on the back can be a bit of a pain, though. On my small fullrangers, I need to get at them through the top-firing vent.

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues
Posted by [Matts](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 21:47:53 GMT
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your setup looks good! I use the threaded inserts in the wood instead of nuts for those hex-head bolts. I have a hardware store handy that sells them with wood threads on the outside and machine threads on the inside.

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 21:55:51 GMT
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That's a great looking setup! Whatcha have there?

Subject: Re: more altec pi issues
Posted by [Tightwad](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 22:05:19 GMT
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The (slightly modded) Sansui turntable has since been replaced. In this photo, you can see my Russco Cuemaster and Hagerman Bugle phono pre, stock with 9V batteries: Moving down, Bottlehead Foreplay with a LM3875 inverted gainclone power amp, also an old Kenwood tuner I picked up at a thrift: The speakers are 1.6 cu ft top-vented boxes, with 6-1/2" drivers, but Fostex FE207Es (arriving Monday) will be replacing them soon. I think fullrange works well for apartment life, but when I graduate, move out, and get a real job, I'll need to have 15" woofers with horn-loaded mids and highs. :)

Subject: I forgot to mention . . .
Posted by [Tightwad](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 22:07:10 GMT
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. . . the H/K CD changer at the bottom. I guess my prejudices are showing

Subject: Re: I forgot to mention . . .

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 22:45:51 GMT

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That must be a great little system! I really like the Fostex 206e, and I expect the 207e must be very nice too. I think that even if you get a larger system later, you'll probably want to keep that one too.

Subject: Re: I forgot to mention . . .

Posted by [Tightwad](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 2004 23:14:58 GMT

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Thanks for the nice comments. Yes, I think it sounds quite nice. I built the cabinets with Diatones in the mind -- the current drivers (SOM-FR65) are underdamped and really want bigger cabinets --> lumpy bass. I went looking around for fullrangers that would work better, vintage and new, and saw that the FE207E with 3 ohm in series to bump up Q was ideal alignment. Those SOM drivers, though, excel in mids and highs: piano, vocals, saxophones, trumpets, guitars sound great, I really hope I don't miss that by moving to the Fostex drivers. Have a great weekend!
