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Subject: Pi 2 Towers: How Careful Do I Have to Be?  
Posted by [elektratic](#) on Wed, 21 Jul 2004 22:12:05 GMT  
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Fresno's question, immediately below (I don't want to hijack his thread), about a blown driver has me wondering. I've been using my Pi 2 Towers this summer as outdoor speakers -- placing them at the sliding doors and blasting them out into the yard, w/ a 100W AKSA amp. Since we abut a state forest here in lovely northwest NJ, I play them pretty d\*\*\*ed loud -- last Saturday night I was playing the Simon & Garfunkel Central Park Concert for a friend at near concert levels, and one of the nice things about the Pi 2s that they just go up and up with no sign of strain at all. This coming weekend, I'm hosting my brother-in-law's 50th birthday party (of course, I'm much younger than he is). Things are likely to get seriously out of hand. Although I doubt we'll play Metallica, Jimi, Cream, Janis, Frank Z., the Stones, et al. will probably attend. The question is: am I tempting fate? Will the drivers show signs of distress before anything untoward happens? Thanks in advance.  
Pi 2 Tower Construction Pix

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Subject: Re: Pi 2 Towers: How Careful Do I Have to Be?  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 21 Jul 2004 22:31:11 GMT  
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I crank 'em pretty hard too. In fact, I run all my speakers real hard. The thing is, with these or any other loudspeakers, you should listen for distress. If you hear what sounds like sharp impacts with bass notes that you don't hear at lower volume levels, you're probably driving the voice coil into the plate, so back off a little bit. Other indicators to listen for are buzzes and a sort of "screechiness" that is caused by clipping from the amp. You'll notice a real big change in sound when a system is pushed past its limits. It is very easy to detect, no skill required. The thing is that some people don't care. Think of the buzzing trunk lid in car stereos, that kind of thing. It is very apparent, and it is really hard to ignore. Same thing with the sort of sounds made by a system in distress from being pushed beyond its limits. You'll know long before failure, and probably will find that your natural inclination is to turn it down because it sounds bad in that mode.

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Subject: Re: Pi 2 Towers: How Careful Do I Have to Be?  
Posted by [elektratic](#) on Thu, 22 Jul 2004 01:54:21 GMT  
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Thanks, Wayne. I listen pretty carefully, so if there are signs of distress, I think I'll notice! In the meantime, even though it's not a Pi -- sorry -- the link is to a photo of the center channel speaker I've made as a present for my bro-in-law.  
Center Channel Speaker

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Subject: Sweet!

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 22 Jul 2004 05:23:02 GMT

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Those are stunning! Zebrawood is so cool looking. And you've done a great job with the cabinets, I love the rounded corners. I'll bet they sound great too!

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