Subject: pi 2 cabinet woods
Posted by max3 on Thu, 18 Nov 2004 04:08:04 GMT
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Just wondering what people have been using for woods on these speakers. I was thinking of a birch cabinet. Any input would be appriciated.

Subject: Re: pi 2 cabinet woods
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 18 Nov 2004 05:17:47 GMT
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Most people use veneered MDF. This gives you the good acoustic properties of MDF and the beauty of a real wood veneer. Some veneer is thicker than others; Some is so thick it is more like paneling. Some people have even used sheet hardwoods over MDF, so there are a lot of good options for your finish layer.Larger speakers are sometimes better done with plywood, for weight savings. Plywood is lighter and more durable, particularly in the presence of water. But the downside is that sometimes plywood layers have voids, and where there are voids, there is debris in the voids that buzzes. Better quality plywoods like baltic birch are more likely to be void free,

indoors, I'd go with MDF and use your favorite high-quality veneer finish.

Subject: Re: pi 2 cabinet woods
Posted by Matts on Thu, 18 Nov 2004 23:23:03 GMT
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Not contradicting Wayne, but I built mine out of 3/4" Baltic ply with an oil finish and they've been great. I picked out a nice sheet and checked it for voids best I could. No buzzes or rattles. You would end up with nicer looking cabs with a good veneer, but my son actually wanted them to look home-made cause he thought it was so cool to build speakers.

Subject: Re: Somebody needs to try
Posted by BillEpstein on Thu, 18 Nov 2004 23:44:45 GMT
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BALSA WOOD!I was in the lumber yard yesterday looking at the exotics and came across a pile of Malaysian Balsa 2X. Great huge boards that practically floated up off the rack. Talk about non-resonant! Maybe no cabinet damping though?

Subject: How about ...
Posted by GarMan on Fri, 19 Nov 2004 00:51:43 GMT
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MDB or baltic birch shell for structural strength, lined with 1/4" balsa.Believe it or not, balsa's technically classified as a hardwood.

Subject: Re: How about ...
Posted by Matts on Fri, 19 Nov 2004 04:36:17 GMT
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I believe it- balsa is *very* strong. Don't let it's lightness fool you. It seems fragile when you're dealing with thin pieces for model airplanes, but a thick piece of it is extremely solid. I'd bet it would make great speakers.

Subject: Re: Somebody needs to try
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 19 Nov 2004 05:09:02 GMT
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Balsa wood and neodymium. Make it sealed and fill it with helium and you won't even have to use stands. Use just enough to offset the weight of mateials and make it have buoyancy where it just floats.

Subject: Re: pi 2 cabinet woods
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 19 Nov 2004 05:10:40 GMT
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That's popular too. Don't get me wrong, I've built plenty of good speakers with plywoods.

Subject: Re: Somebody needs to try
Posted by Chris R on Fri, 19 Nov 2004 15:13:05 GMT
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What was the Balsa selling for?$$/bd-ft?Or was it like dimensional lumber? $$/ftChris

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Subject: Re: Somebody needs to try
Posted by xflow7 on Fri, 19 Nov 2004 23:29:08 GMT
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Just don't use them outside when there's a high pressure system coming through...

Subject: Re: Somebody needs to try
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 20 Nov 2004 05:17:47 GMT
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