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Subject: large woofers, small room, sound quality?  
Posted by [Henry Eng](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 17:00:32 GMT  
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I used to be a deejay so I love large woofers and horn sound in a concert hall or night club. But how do they sound in a typical house or apt, in a room of 15 by 15 or some variation of that? What do I gain, what do I lose, compared to normal consumer speakers? I have a 2a3 tube amp and am looking to match it with a high-efficiency speaker. I am trying out the fostex full-range drivers in bass-reflex cabs, open baffles, but one speaker just can't give me the bass I want. How do the PI speakers compare against audiophile type speakers? Thanks for all your opinions. Regards, Henry

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Subject: Many here use Pi speakers with 2A3 SETs  
Posted by [Garland garland](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 17:59:30 GMT  
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My Bottlehead Paramours really sound good with my Pi Theater 4s. I find they produce much more "live" sound than Fostex horns with the same amps (though not auditioned in the same room/system). My room is 14.5'x17.5'.G.

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Subject: Re: Many here use Pi speakers with 2A3 SETs  
Posted by [Henry Eng](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 18:22:53 GMT  
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Do you feel that you have to sit farther away from the PI speakers than with other loudspeakers you may have used in the past? How is the imaging? Palpability of voices? It would be great if I can spin my turntables and mix techno at loud decibels, then at a moments notice lower the volume and change to some Dean Martin or Norah Jones, etc. Thanks. I appreciate any comment you can provide.-H-

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Subject: Come to the Great Plains Audiofest  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 19:15:47 GMT  
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Subject: Re: Come to the Great Plains Audiofest  
Posted by [Henry Eng](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 21:45:43 GMT  
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Too far for me. Too bad there aren't any audiofests around the East Coast. Any recommendations on speaker placement for something like the 4PI speakers?

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Subject: Re: Come to the Great Plains Audiofest  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 21:52:27 GMT  
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I would put them within a foot or two of the corners, and point them somewhere between 30° and 45° inward. That should sound very nice in your room.

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Subject: which model of fostex's are you running??  
Posted by [oface](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 14:01:00 GMT  
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And have you tried them in a blh (back loaded horn)? I had some vintage phillips fullrangers (late 60's early 70's) , and they sound pretty dang thin , congested and not too dynamic in their bass reflex boxes. So I decided to make some blh's (bk-16's cabs of of the madisound site). I wanted to try the set/ single driver/blh thing out and see if I would want to persue it further. Well results were great , and I placed an order for some fostex fe166's. I will place them in the same cabs for now, but I plan to put them in a much differnt cabs, ala' something similar to cain-cain I-Ben. I also have been very curious to trying some pi speakers out. I wil try some 2pi's 1st then jump up form there is I impressed. If you are decent with a table saw , try making the recommened fostex blh for your type of speaker, giev it a shot, wouldn't hurt. You might be very surprised. Good luck,, ,chris

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Subject: Re: Many here use Pi speakers with 2A3 SETs  
Posted by [Garland garland](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 14:25:26 GMT  
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I listen with the speakers about 8' away from me, about 10' apart and angled in to fire directly at me. This is about the same as the Vandersteen 2Ci's that I used with Adcom amps. These Pi speakers are great at all volume levels. The soundstage is very broad in my room with not alot of depth, however. The palpability is great and any flaws in recordings are laid bare. The Theater 4s with their Eminence drivers lack only the slightest bit in resolution; the more expensive models

may well prove to be the ultimate. Since these speakers can play quite dynamically, some may find them too "in your face", but I love 'em and don't want music to sound like it's coming from a can, or box! By "in your face" I don't mean to imply that the music is too forward; the music is generally in the plane of the speakers but extending often well to the outsides and sometimes the music totally obliterates the walls of the room and transports you to the recording venue, esp. on simply recorded live jazz recordings: my favorites!G.G.

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Subject: Re: which model of fostex's are you running??  
Posted by [Henry Eng](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 15:13:40 GMT  
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I have the older 208 sigma. Tried it in a back-loaded horn. Construction was too much for me, so I decided not to try a second BLH cab. Also put it into Martin King's MLTL but the baffle step circuit sucked the life out of the driver. I also put it on an open baffle and used a Behringer DEQ2496 to flatten the response and it was OK, but obviously no bass. I've been thinking of a variation of the Dick Olsher Basszilla, by using an active crossover I can make a cheap bass-bin and use a small open-baffle with the 208 on top. Problem is cheap bass-bin may not match well for the dynamic and fast full-range driver. Costs and space are a concern otherwise I would get the same driver Olsher uses, an Eminence Magnum 15HO. But if I spend that much money, I might as well buy a kit that has been well thought out so that I can get good results from the beginning. The 4Pi looks to be best bet, although the large 15-inch woofer has me concerned about how it will sound in small rooms of 12 x 12 or 15 and variations of that common to most houses.

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Subject: Re: Many here use Pi speakers with 2A3 SETs  
Posted by [Henry Eng](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 15:20:26 GMT  
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It's great that you can get your speakers 10' apart. I think I may be limited to about 5' as the width of my room is about 12-13 feet, unless I start re-arranging furniture and such to try and get the longer wall. Can you describe the sound in comparison to other speakers you might have had or heard? I'm familiar with horns and large woofers, but only at night clubs and concert halls where are normally blasting in your face, so I don't know about their finesse with jazz and vocals. Thanks for your earlier comments. My credit card is slowing coming out of the wallet Regards, Henry

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Subject: Somewhat hard to compare...  
Posted by [Garland garland](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 18:16:39 GMT  
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...Since I pretty much switched systems all at once, going from 200Watt Adcom amp w/ the 86dB Vandersteens to Paramour 2.5W 2A3 amps with the Theater 4s. The most noteworthy improvement with the tubes and Pi's was in the presentation of the musical landscape, ie. soundstage. Instrumental images are more full size as if the musicians are in the room with you. There is hollow body to stringed instruments and columns of air emanating from wind instruments. Vocalists are standing in front of you, and are moving their heads and filling their lungs. With the other system, the music was beautiful but more restrained and missing the little clues to the actual real performance. Now I have macro and micro dynamics at the same time. Minor changes in the circuitry of the amps or preamp are readily audible, not just "I think I hear a difference". The listening sessions are sometimes very relaxing and other times are very exciting. I always can't wait to get a chance to listen! I have only moderate desire to up-grade or move on to other equipment, which for this neurotic, compulsive tweaker is really saying something. Another characteristic of this tube/Pi system is how very different each recording sounds from each other! With lesser systems, there is a certain kind of glomming together of sound. This system really pressurizes the room in a unique way with each recording. This pressure of sound is where so much of the illusion of being transported to the recording venue resides. When I hear it even before the music starts, I am easily able to suspend belief and am transported back in time to be in the presence of the artists as they lift their instruments and commence playing. previously, I've only really heard this kind of sound from the best analog/ vinyl systems but this is with a modest CD player/ DAC. I can't wait for the kids to grow up a bit more so I can unpack the old TT, build a Phono preamp, and really cook!Hope this helps!Garland

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Subject: Re: large woofers, small room, sound quality?  
Posted by [GarMan](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 18:17:31 GMT  
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Henry, Out of curiosity, how does your old DJ gear sound in a small room? Even though my speaker system is built with JBL pro drivers that were designed to handle hundreds of watts, it still sounds excellent with only a 10W amp in a 12x15 room. One of the benefits of using high power handling and high sensitivity drivers in a home environment is that you're nowhere close to the drivers' compression region. Result is amazing dynamics. Just make sure the motors present an easy load to the amp. To me, I think dynamics is one of the biggest difference between a PI and a set of "audiophile" speakers. For example, take you average 100W 88dB/w/m audiophile speaker. To get up to 105dB, you'll be operating at minimum 50% of max power handling, where compression and distortion would certainly be present (realistically, 50% of max power would only give you 102 to 103 dB). At max power, you'll probably experience about 4dB of compression, yielding max dB of 104dB. A PI speaker with 95dB/w/m and power handling of 400W would only need 10W of power to reach 105dB. This 10W represents only 2.5% of max power handling. Hardly breaking a sweat. Max dB would be around 118dB, factoring in for compression. Nobody should be listening this loud on a continuous basis, but the effect is very noticable at moderate levels because it lets all the musical peaks through. You had some concerns about using a large 15" driver. A large 15" driver tends to beam if you take it into the midrange, which can be a bad or good thing. For PI speakers, Wayne has worked this to his advantage such that the directivity of the woofer and horn are about the same at the crossover region. In terms of colouration, you get what you pay for. There are certainly cheap hi-eff drivers that sound "honky", but many of the

more sophisticated (and expensive) hi-eff drivers sound very neutral. I noticed you mentioned the Magnum to augment the Fostex. A less expensive option would be the Delta12LF that's used in the Theater 3 PI, which I have for Home Theater. It'll take you down to the mid 30's with a box under 4ft<sup>3</sup>.Gar.

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Subject: Re: large woofers, small room, sound quality?  
Posted by [Henry Eng](#) on Wed, 30 Mar 2005 03:21:24 GMT  
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I never brought the DJ gear into the home. I always thought pro stuff should be used in the club or hall, and at home use the smaller consumer grade stuff. After going to several business parties recently and a recent black-tie affair in a big hall, I have an urge to bring a stack into the home. The speakers were huge, the sound was like a giant wall crashing down at you, and not only did you hear the music, you felt it in your chest. Now that's what I call a sound system! Too bad they were clipping. I could hear the compression artifacts. Because my rooms aren't that large I'm a bit worried that the big drivers won't open up properly or have enough room to breath since they were designed for high output in mind (for concert halls, etc)-Henry

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