Subject: GPAF coverage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 06 May 2005 06:18:59 GMT
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I was really pleased with how everything turned out at the recent Great Plains Audiofest last weekend. I wrote some impressions in the General forum on AudioRoundTable.com, but I wanted

Embassy Suites. I've always loved those speakers, and I think going back to a three-way was a very good thing. These are my best speakers ever. I've always been proud of my loudspeaker designs, but these are extra special. They make it hard to shut off the music to go do the stuff you

JBL 2205 woofers and JBL 2105 mids were like that too. But I really think this new model with the large format midhorn tops them. They're just right, man they're right. I don't mean to be imprudent, but I am excited about these speakers.The midhorn has been out for about a year now, and several people have implemented them. I've been able to test them with various drivers, find some that worked well and others that weren't as good. And I've been able to listen to the speakers for a long time, to live with them and to evaluate them.The thing that makes the midhorn

from each wall. That makes boundary reinforcement work very well from 300Hz down, so the walls act as very long flare extensions. This makes what is essentially an undersized horn act like it were huge. The response is excellent, smooth and extended. The places you really notice it are musical passages with piano, cello and vocals. With its range this deep, wavelengths are long and crossover to the woofer is seamless. And with the angle set the same as the walls, everything all the way up comes from the same direction and fills the room evenly. These

great cabinetry, and so searching for another cabinet maker was a pretty difficult job. Martinelli is a hard act to follow. I wouldn't have done it, but Bill says it's hard for him to justify building the inexpensive stuff. So he opted out.I've used four separate cabinet shops in Tulsa prior to 2000, and this year, I went to three others in one year alone. But I think I've found Bill's match. Not that it's a competition or anything, and everyone has their own style. Bill Martinelli will still build custom cabinets, so if you're up north and you want an excellent cabinet, ask Martinelli to provide a quote for you.Ironically, I've known Brad Smith, my current cabinetmaker, for 15 years. I can't believe I didn't ask him to build cabinets sooner. He has done an excellent job for me in the past few months, and we've built several loudspeakers together. He can build with standard woods and finishes, or with exotics and modelled woods to provide the finest Grande cabinets. What you saw at GPAF was my bass bins built by Martinelli and my midhorns built by Smith. Both were

A long time ago, it was really a sort of intuitive thing. It just seemed that launching from the corners focused the sound naturally, and listening proved them to sound most natural to me. But it wasn't until much later that I realized what was happening in the reverberent field.Speakers that

available. They're easier to place because they aren't bound to corners. And you still get the lows all the way up through the vocals and into the overtones coming from a single driver, so the

each, and the Stoetkit is $750.00 from FSAudio, so this gets you just under $1000.00 for a complete system, by the time you buy wood and materials to assemble your speakers. At MAF, I demo'ed with a Harman Kardon HK3470 that only cost $400.00 new. It sounded very nice too. Not as groovy cool looking, but certainly not ugly and a very capable amp.The Nelson Audio amp I showed at GPAF is about $1000.00 by itself. So that puts you at about $1500.00 to $2000.00, realistically, by the time you get a decent CD player and a nice finish on your speakers. But the sound is really great and plenty loud. Not 2 watt SET and mini-monitor loud, I'm talking turn it down loud, you're going to get the cops called out loud. And I'm not talking thrashing loud either, I'm talking quality, enough to play complex passages without breaking up in the crescendoes.two

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Subject: Re: GPAF coverage
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 06 May 2005 11:54:45 GMT
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Wayne; Nice post for those considering your higher end designs and what you pair them with. May I interject with some thoughts here?I have been using the Theater 4 Pi's now for a year. They have been paired with at least a dozen different amplifiers and front ends; from expensive tubes to ultra-cheap SS chip amps.For those who are on a budget I have another option. While I am sure the 4's are not quite as good at resolving micro-details and presenting a wide deep and musical soundstage as the 7's; they do have more of these virtues than most all of the competition that is currently out there regardless of price. A combination that will surprise and delight those who; while desiring a pair of 7's must consider finances, just might be what I now describe.The 4's sound absolutely beautiful being driven by the 30$ Sonic T-Amp. As soon as you stop laughing; let me repeat, they sound better than you can believe paired with this amp. Big; spacious, powerful with great bottom and gorgeous mids. Nice articulate and smooth highs; they can fill a decent sized room with effortless sound and balanced reproduction. They cost what; about 550$ now? Well there's another option, Pi Theater 4's with the T-Amp and a nice Marantz DVD player puts you at under 700$ This is for really high end presentation that; when funds allow can be stepped up with the Stoetkit to bring you into the big leagues; or you can live with this set-up forever. They are that good and enjoyable. You will never believe the power and fundemental energy this combo can produce. Believe me I have every type of music from Mettalica to Solo Piano recordings of Keith Jarrett to Sonny Rollins and it all plays uniformly well. Drums sound deep and quick, Piano has real body, Bass is fast and solid. It all works better than you would think. I feel it would make a great entry level option to those looking for great sound with the possibilities of up-grading in the future that doesn't require a dedicated savings program.

Subject: Seconded!
Posted by GarlandGarland on Fri, 06 May 2005 16:18:47 GMT
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I agree; the Theater 4's with the Sonic Impact amp is quite good! Super clean and great overall dynamics. I still prefer the suave sophistication of the tubed Bottlehead electronics with equal if not better micro and macro dynamics and bass extension than the T amp. But for the $30 investment, the lowly Sonic Impact amp is astounding, as of course, are the theater 4's!G.

Subject: DI matched two-ways
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 06 May 2005 18:16:09 GMT
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I agree with you both, John and Garland. I've loved the sound and price/performance of my DI

response is clean through the midrange, so it makes a perfect device for a DI matched two-way. And it is nice on the bottom end too, because it has slightly rising response, which makes it very versatile in placement. When in corners or near them, the bass is boosted and this alignment make that a complementary situation. Sitting on the floor against a wall is close too. It's just really

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Subject: Re: GPAF coverage
Posted by Eric Mainardi on Sat, 07 May 2005 07:04:14 GMT
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Congratulations WAYNE, your Seven Pi is really attractive both on sonic and aesthetic side. My opinion is that from now you have launched a new style of horn system. So nice that I want to introduce them in France.Concerning the model shown here, can you give us some technical details : frequency responce, drivers used, price, etc ?Thanks,ERIC

Subject: Re: GPAF coverage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 07 May 2005 07:24:58 GMT
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excellent combination and you will enjoy this system very much.You're the Eminence distributor for France, aren't you? If so, you'll be able to assemble the speakers without any trouble and if not, maybe you will want to consider getting setup with them. I'd be happy to ship you the components, but I think you're in a position to get them directly from Eminence yourself. After

further.

Subject: Thirded?
Posted by elektratig on Sat, 07 May 2005 14:16:00 GMT
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I don't have the SI amp, but I'll certainly third the Theater 4's.I'd take a stab at the 7s, but I don't have any corners! Boo hoo.

Subject: my exact problem as well! {:-(nt
Posted by GarlandGarland on Mon, 09 May 2005 14:49:44 GMT
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