Subject: Dayton Speaker Cabinets
Posted by paully on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 16:30:22 GMT
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Hello,I would have thought a question like this would be in the archives so hopefully this is not a dumb question. Looking at the Studio kit for $80 it looks like a great deal. I was thinking about putting them in a Dayton cabinet from Parts Express and calling it good. Has this been tried and is there a Dayton cabinet of the proper dimensions that will work well enough? This is for an office system and I am only really looking to get some speakers set up for my wife that will be better than her computer speakers for less than $150 and it looks like the Studio kit plus the Dayton cabinets could easily do it if they will work together. Obviously it can't be as optimal as Pi's cabinets but it would get me through if feasible. Thanks!

Subject: Re: Dayton Speaker Cabinets
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 17:25:39 GMT
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What are the dimensions of the cabinet you're hoping to use?

Subject: Re: Dayton Speaker Cabinets
Posted by paully on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 18:25:23 GMT
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I am open to using the right cabinet, I just am familiar with the Dayton premade cabinets and they have a variety of sizes. I put a link to the site at parts express with the various cabinets. Would just want to pick one that goes with the kit, and I am not particularly familiar with how to choose though I am going to go try to figure that out. Thanks!

http://www.partsexpress.com/webpage.cfm?&DID=7&WebPage_ID=180&raid=44&rak=finished_cabinets#75MTMBAF

Subject: Re: Dayton Speaker Cabinets
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 18:43:04 GMT
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I don't think any of those will work, sorry.

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by Bill Epstein on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 19:47:00 GMT
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The Home Centers all sell laminated pine in 12, 18 and 24 inch widths. You could glue and finish nail the 18" for fronts and backs, 12 inch for sides 18" high for the Studio 2's. No cutting at all except the length which Depot or Lowes will do for you. Then rout or saw the speaker cut-outs and ports and put on some finish.

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by paully on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 13:56:15 GMT
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Are there published plans for the appropriate speaker cabinets with placement of the speaker cutouts, etc…? I don't see any.

Subject: Re: Dayton Speaker Cabinets
Posted by paully on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 13:57:43 GMT
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Well that settles that, but thank you for the response. I am following up about a simple cabinet that I can nail together with Home Depot wood above so all is not lost yet! Thanks!

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by Matts on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 14:13:12 GMT
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On the pi website there are lists with the dimensions- if you're looking for bookshelf you want Studio one's or Two's. Two's have real bass. If they fit what you need, ask Wayne for the plans, he'll send 'em to you. Besides the shelf idea, you may be able to find someone who can build you some basic boxes for the price of those Dayton cabs. The 10" woofer does things the little full-range speakers just can't do....

Subject: Re: Dayton Speaker Cabinets

Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 15:29:01 GMT
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Let me know what model you're interested in and I'll send the plans. Then you can get the wood at a local lumber yard, have them cut it for you and take it home and glue it together. Don't use nails, you might split the wood. If you use screws, drill pilot holes first to prevent splitting the wood. Make the holes big enough to pass the shank but small enough to allow the threads to bit into wood. In any case, use glue and make sure the cabinet is airtight.

Subject: Re: Dayton Speaker Cabinets
Posted by paully on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 16:52:16 GMT
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The studio two kit is the one that I am interested in building. It came highly recommended (for what I need) over on the Bottlehead forum (and those guys I trust). The actual kit comes with a cross over, binding posts, etc. so that the only thing I need is speaker dampening stuffing, speaker wire, and the actual cabinet, correct? Just want to know what I need to come up with. I really appreciate all of the help.

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by paully on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 17:07:13 GMT
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The Studio II speakers are definitely what I am interested in and I appreciate letting me know they are the right thing. The truth of the matter is they really don't have to be overly incredible (though I am sure they are) for a simple office system to play in the background while my wife and I put together a puzzle and surf the net. They just need to be enjoyable. Wayne has already offered to send the plans to me. The help on this forum is exceptional, I think I am sold if the plans come through and I can either do them easily myself or find someone here who can do it for me.

Subject: Or MDF
Posted by GarMan on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 17:07:29 GMT
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Or, you can bring a cutting diagram to a store and have them cut all twelve panels for you to size from one sheet of 4x8 MDF. Bring the scraps home with you for bracing. The entire sheet of

MDF should cost you about $20. Then prime and paint. Kitchen melamine paint works well but requires multiple coats.

Subject: You've got mail!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 17:41:03 GMT
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copy of the plans. All you'll need is the cabinet and some of your time to put it together.

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by Bill Epstein on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 18:57:26 GMT
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It isn't economic to ship boxes but if you can get together the parts, send me the front baffle with return postage and I'll cut the holes.

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by paully on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 20:06:57 GMT
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I would be willing to take you up on that, you are very generous to offer. I was trying to figure out what I was going to do in that regard. I think I read that pine and particle board were recommended, but just to double check what are some good wood options? I have the plans so I will see if I can get them cut this weekend if at all possible.

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 20:24:22 GMT
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I recommend MDF or Baltic Birch plywood. You can use whatever veneer or finish you desire.

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by Matts on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 00:50:51 GMT
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I think Bill Epstein was suggesting the pine as a quick & simple way to build and minimize the process....good idea, too if that's your goal. If you don't take him up on the baffle offer, I've got tools to cut the holes (but not if it's MDF- I hate the dust.) Also, if you use screws, the newer thin drywall screws are great- thinner, and create more clamping force than wood screws. If you are going to get the wood cut at a store, do a 3-D drawing first to make sure you allow for the board thickness where needed. Wayne's plans are for exterior dimensions. G'luck!

Subject: Re: Hey Pauly!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 05:08:20 GMT
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I thought by laminated pine he was talking about plywood.

Subject: Re:Not plywood
Posted by Bill Epstein on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 09:34:28 GMT
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Meant for table tops and shelves. Narrow pieces glued up into wider widths, not really laminations as we think of them in plywood. Should limit seasonal movement and they are quite flat and have nice straight edges.Some 12's, some 18's (widths), 6d finish nails and carpenters glue would be all you need to build boxes.At my Home Depot or Lowe's the panel saw is off square and they use the tape attached to the frame to size your cut. That leaves you to square the pieces during glue-up and trim the edges that protrude. And that requires a sharp plane or router which defeats the purpose of working w/o buying more tools.

Subject: Re:Not plywood
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 13:41:41 GMT
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I think I understand. Is it like plywood but with thick laminations?

Subject: Re:Not plywood
Posted by Bill Epstein on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 14:12:41 GMT
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Nope.Think Bowling Alley.Horizontal laminations?

Subject: Re:Not plywood
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 15:05:13 GMT
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Aaaah, now I gotcha. Thanks for the heads up. What's the best wood for speaker building they have at retail shops like Lowes and Home Depot? Can they get Baltic Birch or MDF?

Subject: Re:Not plywood
Posted by Bill Epstein on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 16:59:00 GMT
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The Big Boxes have MDF but not Baltic Birch. My Home Depot has 4x8 Birch and Oak Plywood that seems mostly void-free. Baltic Birch has come to mean 5x5 panels with lots of footballs (patches) on one side. There's Finnish Birch and Russian Birch. Finnish Birch was always the quality item w/o any patches or voids. Doesn't seem to be around much anymore.Best quality ply might be Apple Ply.Next would be Hardwood plywood with an 'A' side veneer of Walnut or oak or whatever and the 'B' side same of lesser quality or Alder. This is a huge advantage because for another $30 bucks over the $90 to $130 price of the sheet you buy a 250 ft roll of matching iron-on veneer to cover the raw edges. Wipe on a finish and you're done.

Subject: Re:Not plywood
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 17:44:50 GMT
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That's good info, thanks. I bought several sheets of Baltic Birch recently and it is just as you described, real pretty on one side but footballs everywhere on the other. The sheets have several plies and are very strong and void free. I could tell they are Russian, because each has the

strong really, you can chip edges pretty easy and it has very poor water resistance. Soaks up humidity like a sponge and grows like one too. Plywood is stronger, but you have to find good stuff that doesn't have voids. It's not really the voids I'm worried about so much as it is the debris

that can be caught inside the void. That and the possibility of two laminates buzzing together.One other thing is the use of fasteners. If screws are driven into plywood edges, they will separate the plies and make a void. You can get away with this on solid hardwood stock, but not plywood. If a screw must be driven into a plywood sheet on edge, a pilot hole should be drilled first, so that the shank passes easily and only the threads bite into the wood. That will help prevent separating the plies.

Subject: Re:Not plywood
Posted by Matts on Sat, 24 Sep 2005 18:37:36 GMT
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Wayne,Screws being a problem in plywood is true with wood screws, which from some reason are so conical. I used to drill pilot holes through both pieces of wood, make the top panel hole larger so the screw didn't catch in it (let's it be clamped down much better), countersink that, put in a dowel plug when done. Now, with the new thin drywall screws, don't really need the pilot hole in the sideways/bottom piece. Much better clamping, too. The best screws now are Spax, made in Germany, not too expensive, designed for wood, but kinda like a drywall screw, have *really sharp* serrated edges on threads, need no pilot holes- just line it up very straight and clamps like a demon. The ply at Home Depot with the birch or oak outside layer is very good. This new stuff they have, called Sandex or something like that, is not.
 Spax Screws

Subject: Re:Not plywood
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 25 Sep 2005 02:38:29 GMT
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Cool, thanks for the tip!
