Subject: Sonic signature
Posted by imahawki on Sun, 02 Oct 2005 21:09:43 GMT
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How would you describe the sonic signature of the Pi speakers. I'm interested in the Theater Four's but I loathe bright, shouty speakers. Is there anyone in the Omaha Nebraska area that has built a pair?

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by GrantMarshall on Sun, 02 Oct 2005 23:43:57 GMT
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When you buy speakers at a store and don't know how to change anything you can get "shouty bright" speakers. Wayne designed these speakers and did a lot of testing to choose components that work together. If you happened to find them shouty for under $10 he could tell you how to adjust them.If you haven't seen a good high efficiency speaker yet the second question about wanting to listen to a pair is a GREAT question. Most people get this pleasure at "Big Screen, Big Sound" places. Then there are those that like big sound all the time :-). That would be the signature of a nice set of Pi 4's. Best wishes on your search for demo models.Grant.

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by imahawki on Sun, 02 Oct 2005 23:58:55 GMT
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I actually just got back from the Rocky Mountain Audio Fest and some of the designs I heard there have me at least investigating some big, high-efficiency systems. I think a Pi kit might be on the short list as it looks like a pair of theater four's could be built for $500-$550ish which is a lot of speaker for that money.

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by Matts on Mon, 03 Oct 2005 01:24:04 GMT
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if you're looking for value, it's very hard to beat.... I just built some Stage 4's and they sound great. What kiind of amp do you have?

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by imahawki on Mon, 03 Oct 2005 14:25:38 GMT
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Right now I'm using an Arcam A85 integrated, but if I built a pair of high effeciency speakers, I'd probably consider an SET amp (like a bottlehead kit). On a side note, for music, I listen to new rock, classic rock, jazz (old, new, swing, big band, etc.) blues, and some pop (Think Maroon 5, DMB, Gavin Degraw, John Mayer etc.). Basically everything except classical (though I DO listen to that too, just not as often.) My main concern is definately that these speakers be dynamic, which I think is a safe bet based on the design, but that they are very non-fatiguing to listen to.

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 03 Oct 2005 14:38:43 GMT
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I own Pi Theater 4's for about three years now. I have used them with SET's/PP tubes/class A SS/and a Carver amp as well as several ss recievers. If there is anyway I can help give us a shout. I will say the Arcam would make a great combo with these; I found my Luxman M-120 SS amp to really bring out the musicality in these speakers. And in my experience you can listen for hours without fatique. I am used to good british mini-monitors that are very smooth and the Pi's are equally so. Unless you want to experiment with tubes but in my opinion you may like the Arcam better. The sheer musical prescence and body on the sound of these speakers is a joy to hear.

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by imahawki on Mon, 03 Oct 2005 14:42:51 GMT
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Thanks for the reply. Good information. I definately wouldn't jump the gun on switching amplification. If I ended up with the Theater Four's I'd not be switching out amps for several months.

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by Matts on Mon, 03 Oct 2005 16:30:18 GMT
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although I don't have the Theatre 4's but the Stage 4's, but as said above, it's a different package

with a larger SS amp vs. SET. I listen with upgraded Bottlehead Paramours, but used SS to help break them in. You'll have either option if you go this route, and ultimatley it's a matter of preference. They are very smooth, clear, and detailed, but none of what I'd call "shout", even though the dynamics will proably be even better than you'd expect.

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by GrantMarshall on Mon, 03 Oct 2005 19:22:23 GMT
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I'll give you fair warning though. If you've never built your own before this can be an addictive hobby. There are a large number of semi deaf people that can attest to the pitfalls associated with it. Then there's the drooling response when you see what some of the other builders are doing. Very embarassing.Enjoy, what ever your choice is.Grant.

Subject: On the bad side ...
Posted by GarMan on Mon, 03 Oct 2005 20:33:05 GMT
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You wouldn't find a shortage of praise for these speakers, but thought I'll balance it out with one of the drawbacks. The speakers will reward you for using a good amp and punish you for using a crappy one.I had a set of Polk's floorstanders for HT before I built my Theater-3. The Polks sounded pretty much the same with my Sony A/V reciever, tube amp, and gainclone. Plugged the Theatre-3 to the Sony A/V and the sound is tolerable at best. Powered by the gainclone or my tube amp, the speakers are very musical. But it sounds like you're one the right path for amp selection.Gar.

Subject: Re: On the bad side ...
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 04 Oct 2005 11:21:30 GMT
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G-Man; I always considered that a good thing. The only drawback for the 4's is size that I can see. Not many people have the luxury of using boxes that big in the home. Thats why we are such a small community. One of these days I have to try the 3's. You should show this guy pics of your three's.

Subject: Re: Sonic signature
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 04 Oct 2005 11:24:08 GMT
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I agree. I found ultimately that my favorite sound was accomplished with PP tubes. About 30 watts. But as he says they all sound good; it's a matter of preference and room size and musical styles.

Subject: Re: On the bad side ...
Posted by GarMan on Tue, 04 Oct 2005 12:37:14 GMT
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In general, revealing speakers are a good thing. It's only bad for me because I'm not allowed to buy a new receiver, so I'm stuck using my cheap Sony model for HT Since you asked, below's a link to my Theatre-3 build. I adjusted the dimensions to a tower format.Gar.
3-PI

Subject: Re: On the bad side ...
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 04 Oct 2005 12:47:56 GMT
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Why not a modified T-Amp. 60$ and you're good to go.The pics; thats what he needs to see. I think a lot of folks don't realise what can be done with a DIY speaker. Those boxes and the price of the Theater threes? Can't beat it with a stick.

Subject: Re: On the bad side ...
Posted by imahawki on Tue, 04 Oct 2005 13:17:08 GMT
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Perhaps you haven't heard it but in general, where would you rate Arcam? I mean, clearly its not bottom-shelf Best Buy stuff... Just seeking opinions.

Subject: I'm in Nebraska
Posted by Pfenning on Wed, 05 Oct 2005 22:39:26 GMT

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I just about fell out of my chair when I saw your post. I just recieved my Stage 4 kits yesterday, and I hope to begin building the cabinets this weekend. I'll keep everyone posted on the progress here on the forum. Good luck with your decision, Wayne helped me decide after a fairly long phone conversation. I have to say he really knows his products, and what works best with certain systems and tastes. I have SET amps from Bottlehead, which is why I purchased the Stage 4 Pi's.Thanks,Justin

Subject: Re: I'm in Nebraska
Posted by imahawki on Thu, 06 Oct 2005 00:04:01 GMT
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Awesome, I did get a hold of the guy from Omaha I was asking about in my other post. Good luck with your project!