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Subject: Stage 4 Update

Posted by [Matts](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 03:26:23 GMT

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My fairly new Stage 4's have been getting nicer & smoother with more play. Also, this weekend replaced the stock horn compensator(?) with one made of Mills non-inductive resistors and an Auricap. Even w/out break-in, it sounds a lot smoother and much more defined. I also found the nuts on the woofer connections had loosened a tad (all that Tupac to loosened up more than the cone), and one of the spade connections was a little loose. Good to get that stuff tightened up again- it's like re-torquing the head after 900 miles. Eventually, going to replace all the stock caps in series and solder it all up- since I'm using Paramours I don't need the high-power capability in the stock. Going to be fun....

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Subject: Re:Bologna and Wonder Bread

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 08:05:01 GMT

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Those attenuation caps are really crucial to the sound. I've had Solens (unremarkable), Clarity (dreadfully bright), Auricaps (most listenable but maybe rolled-off?) and now Kimber Kaps. The Kimbers allow the most detail and air but give a hard edge to even Jacintha's creamy voice in the upper octave when pushed above normal listening levels. Hoping they'll break in but....Maybe I'll pack Bologna and Wonder bread for a few weeks and get a pair of those VH Teflon caps for \$120 each.

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Subject: Re:Bologna and Wonder Bread

Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 09:47:20 GMT

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And to think I am using Parts Express MPP's and still eating bread and bologna!Ron

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Subject: Forget the spades

Posted by [GarMan](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 12:43:27 GMT

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Spades are poor connectors. Solder the wires directly to the drivers instead. If you want the option to disconnect the drivers, then solder a 4" length of wire to the driver and connect the bare wire on the other end with electrical screw caps. Twist it in tight.

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Subject: Re:Bologna and Wonder Bread  
Posted by [Matts](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 14:17:35 GMT  
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listening more today- sounds much better already, especially with orchestral music. Whole different speaker. I've tried several of the boutique caps in different things. I think the Auricaps are the best all-rounder & most predictable- they open it up and give great definition. Probably another type would be better in any given app, but for the \$\$ the experiment gets expensive quick..and it's nice to be able to put a good deli mustard on those bologna sandwiches!Now I have to decide what to do about the other caps, and they get expensive quick... maybe bologna & mustard roll-ups?

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Subject: Re: Forget the spades  
Posted by [Matts](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 14:21:11 GMT  
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man, I was cursing the spades blue the other night working with them...shoulda soldered it all from the start! Actually, I do have a few connections soldered now where I was so frustrated with the spades, rest will come soon... Wierd how something intended to be simpler is so much more of a pain.

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Subject: Re:Bologna and Wonder Bread  
Posted by [Matts](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 14:30:12 GMT  
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looks like Bill has a lot of decent caps he could give you to recycle...trade him a bottle of Gulden's Brown or Hebrew National mustard for those sandwiches

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Subject: Re:Bologna and Wonder Bread  
Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 16:17:59 GMT  
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Same here!

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Subject: Re:Nobody FORCED you to buy a wooden hole in the water!nt  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 21:31:20 GMT  
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Subject: Re: Forget the spades  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 21:53:37 GMT  
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I know what you mean. Sometimes they're too loose, and sometimes they're snug enough to break the connector.

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Subject: Re:Bologna and Wonder Bread  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 22:00:46 GMT  
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I've played around with a few different brands too. I kinda like the Solens for big values and Kimber Caps for the small ones, Erse for big coils and Jantzen for the smaller ones. Makes a nice step up that doesn't require a few hundred bucks worth of caps. But I'll have to say the stock stuff sounds pretty good, and it's not a night and day thing. If there was one part I'd say was most noticeable, it would probably be the 5.6mH Erse coil on the speakers that use the big coil.

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Subject: Re:Bologna and Wonder Bread  
Posted by [Jerrod Harden](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 22:22:05 GMT  
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Parts Express MPP's for me, bypassed with AudioCap Theta's. Recommended from many regulars on the JBL board. I wonder if I'm missing something with this setup? Jerrod

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Subject: Re: Forget the spades  
Posted by [Matts](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 23:22:32 GMT  
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worst thing for me was worrying that I was going to stab my hand with the oyster knife I was trying to loosen a couple of 'em up with!

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Subject: Re:It's FIBERGLASS, if it's all the same to you!  
Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Wed, 26 Oct 2005 02:32:54 GMT  
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