Subject: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 21 Nov 2005 15:04:51 GMT
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A great time was had buy all at the November 19, 2005 Great Plains Audio Club meeting. Jim Denton was kind enough to have us all over. In attendance was Jim Denton, Bill Wassilak, Akhilesh Bajaj, Norman Tracy and me.Wayne Parham, Akhilesh Bajaj, Norman Tracy and Bill WassilakWayne Parham, Jim Denton, Norman Tracy and Bill WassilakJim is a big fan of single driver speakers, and he had some new drivers to hear. His Martin King transmission line speakers were recently loaded with Lowther drivers, which sounded very nice.Martin King TL speaker with Lowther driverWe listened to this speaker with and without a midrange notch filter. It also had a BSC, which was left in place. Comparison of the Lowther with the notch filter to the same setup without, as one might expect, the speaker was a little strident when the filter was removed. Some thought it more revealing without the notch filter, others thought it too shrill. Again, these are common reactions to Lowthers.Fred Thompson Voigt PipesJim bought these Voigt pipes from Fred Thompson last year. They use a Fostex driver and sound very nice. Jim later added a pair of "wings", to act as movable baffle extensions. We've all heard these speakers before, so it made a sort of baseline for comparison with Jim's Lowthers in the Martin King boxes. We also listened to several amplifiers through both sets of speakers.Abraxas Audio "Yellow" ampJim bought another Abraxas amp since we'd all seen him last. I always like the colored transformer hoods, and have started naming them by colors. "Yellow" has a very nice sound and a little more power than "Blue", shown below.Abraxas Audio "Blue" ampBlue puts out a whopping three-quarter watts in triode mode, something like 1.5 in pentode mode. It's a neat little amp.Akhilesh's custom 2A3 ampAkhilesh bought a new SET amplifier based on 2A3 tubes. I thought it sounded good and looked very nice. The chassis is all brushed aluminum with a smart looking solid wood front panel, plain, no knobs or switches. It sounded a little conjested in the mids, but I think it was the slightly throaty sound of the speakers I was hearing, maybe not so much the amp. The speakers sounded great, but it may have been the combination that was a little off. We'll have to try it in some other settings to know for sure. Jim Denton, Wayne Parham and Bill Wassilak checking out Akhilesh's new ampIt was really great to get together with everyone on Saturday. I think we all wanted to see each other as much as we wanted to check out audio gear, because we hadn't since GPAF in May. We've planned a meeting at Akhilesh's house in December and another at Mark Margiotta's house in January, so we're making up on lost time.

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by dwkurfma on Mon, 21 Nov 2005 16:12:06 GMT
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Do you have a URL for Abraxas Audio? It seems to be impossible to find anything using Google because of Santana's "Abraxas".Dan

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Shane on Mon, 21 Nov 2005 18:51:56 GMT
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Here it is. Jeff is a great guy and I've had many an email conversation with him about his SET designs.
http://abraxasaudio.home.att.net/quicklist.html

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 21 Nov 2005 21:12:59 GMT
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He's also listed on the Exhibitors page on the Great Plains Audiofest website.

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Fest
Posted by Shane on Mon, 21 Nov 2005 21:22:21 GMT
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Great pictures by the way, Wayne!Good to see there will be Abraxas and Audio Tropic there. I've looked into building some of the amps from Jeff and Erik, specifically the Darling, Spud, and changing The Musical Machine to 6AQ5's on the output. I've got to come now.

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Norris Wilson on Tue, 22 Nov 2005 03:59:32 GMT
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Great pictures of some nice equipment. Sorry that I had to miss out on what looked to be a good time, especially listening to the yellow and little blue amplifiers through the Lowthers. I had a prior engagement that weekend, so I had to pass. I hope that there will be a little more warning on a definite meeting date in December? I would like to partake of the fun and see everyone.Thanks for sharing the pictures and I hope to see you in December.Norris

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Norman Tracy on Tue, 22 Nov 2005 20:25:28 GMT

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First off thanks to Jim for hosting us and congratulations on your lovely new home. I want your Norton.OK, enough pretending to be normal, let's switch into full on audio geek mode.For me the highlights of the meeting were talking shop with everybody and hearing Jim's new Lowthers. After years of reading about Lowthers finally getting to hear a pair was a rare treat. I must say they largely lived up to their billing. Our initial listening was with the mandated (for a Martin King design) baffle step correction LRC circuit. In that state I thought they sounded very nice indeed. I commented this is really working and with the against type bass reflex enclosure and a Lowther! Once again showing the value of ignoring conventional wisdom and trying something different. Not a hint of the 'Lowther shout' we all read about. Then a group of angry torch carrying villagers arrived at the gates. After breaching the mote and battering in the gate they descended on the BSC boards and made off with the capacitor part of the circuit. Now the Lowthers sounded like the turbo and NOS had engaged. The reproduction exhibited lightening fast dynamics and a unique musical presence. Now one could really hear what all the excitement is about and why so many individuals worldwide have expended so many resources looking for the perfect Lowther implementation. At times it went a little over the top, something was now allowed to 'zing' at us. With just a little tweaking (or experimenting with a back horn?) and this could be something very special indeed.A couple of notes to Jim related to our discussions.The smooth bend back horn we were discussing is by Peter Van Vegchel and can be found here:http://www.audiocraftersguild.com/Xtreme/xtreme.htmscroll to bottom or here:http://www.audiohobbyist.com/projects/fostexhorn.htmPeter Van Vegchel has moved on to front Oris horns as seen here:http://www.diy-systems.com/index.html?lang=en-uk&target=d15.htmlWhile on diy-systems.com check out their new Quasar MkII DIY system. I have some pictures snagged off the web of this system sporting Lowther or AER drivers rather than the Fostex shown in the above link. http://www.diy-systems.com/index.html?lang=en-uk&target=d84.htmlThanks again for the enjoyable afternoon!Norman Tracy

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Martin on Wed, 23 Nov 2005 11:01:15 GMT
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Wayne,"We listened to this speaker with and without a midrange notch filter. It also had a BSC, which was left in place. Comparison of the Lowther with the notch filter to the same setup without, as one might expect, the speaker was a little strident when the filter was removed. Some thought it more revealing without the notch filter, others thought it too shrill. Again, these are common reactions to Lowthers."I am confused. From your description, it sounds like there was both a notch filter and a BSC filter. Can somebody tell me the values and layout of the filters since I have not seen this arrangment? What specifically was removed? I probably should know this already, but which EX driver was used? Just want to make sure I understand the set-up when reviewing the comments about the design so that I learn and make the next design even better.Thanks in advance,Martin

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 23 Nov 2005 21:00:58 GMT
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I didn't pay attention to the values of the components. Jim and Akhilesh were looking at the circuit trying to figure out what it was, so I went to look at it. There was a coil and resistor in parallel, and this network was in series with the driver. I would assume that was a BSC network, although I didn't liook at the values to know where it cut in or by how much. After the BSC filter, there was a series cap, coil and resistor connected in parallel across the driver, forming a notch filter with resistance to set the Q of the notch. Here again, I didn't check the values but assumed it was probably there to tame a peak in the overtone region. Maybe Jim can chime in, look at the component values and let us know.

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Martin on Wed, 23 Nov 2005 21:14:24 GMT
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So the BSC stayed in the entire time and the notch was removed?Martin

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 23 Nov 2005 21:17:59 GMT
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That's right. They wanted to remove the notch filter, so I showed them how to do it. If it had been wired differently, it would have been evident but the routing of wiring inside the cabinet made it not immediately obvious. So the bottom line is we opened up the LRC leg to remove the notch filter, and compared the sound with and without the notch filter, leaving the BSC in place.

Subject: Re: Great Plains Audio Club meeting pics - November 19, 2005
Posted by akhilesh on Thu, 24 Nov 2005 15:25:04 GMT
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HI MArtin,Yes, Wayne & Jim removed the cap from the circuit. I don;lt think this is the cap you use as a high pas filter...this was connected in a different way, in series with the BSC (if I remember). Anyways, the sound was MUCH improved after removing the cap. -akhilesh