Subject: Skip Pack -question on coil for Two Towers.
Posted by Shane on Sun, 21 May 2006 21:33:42 GMT
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Skip, I seem to recall that you said you had changed the coil in your Towers to a lower value. I know I wrote down the value and brand someplace, as well as the difference it made, but seem to have misplaced my notes from GPAF. Could you reiterate thos details for me again?Shane

Subject: Re: Skip Pack -question on coil for Two Towers.
Posted by Skip on Mon, 22 May 2006 13:53:59 GMT
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Hi Shane,I understand there's a new amp in your life. I'me interestedto hear how it sounds on your towers once you've changed thecoils, and possibly the caps.I built 3 2Pi Towers, 2 Studio 1Pis, and 2 Studio 2Pis with the original coils. I replaced original coils with 14 guagecoils from North Creek Music on each of those speaker models,always with a clear improvement. I've used .5, .6, and .7mhcoils, and don't have a clear opinion on which is best. I think, but don't know, that the large value may smooth someat the top of the 10" drivers range. I expect that most of the improvement comes from the lowered DCR.I'm using 10mf motor run caps I got from ebay (new) on the Studio 2 Pis (four of them). With the Vifa tweeter, they arevery smooth, and I like smooth. It was a shame that you hadto leave before I had my system up and running (Sunday). It worked pretty well in the small room.Skip Pack

Subject: Re: Skip Pack -question on coil for Two Towers.
Posted by Shane on Mon, 22 May 2006 15:08:46 GMT
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Thanks Skip. I did miss not being able to hear them.Are you still using the 20 ohm (????) resistor across the tweeter, also?Shane

Subject: Re: Skip Pack -question on coil for Two Towers.
Posted by Skip on Mon, 22 May 2006 15:32:30 GMT
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I left the resistor Wayne supplied in place. I put in new wireend-to-end because you have to mount the replacement coil (they arebig and heavy) to a speaker panel, but it was schematically identical to stock. I did add resistors across the piezo's in the older speakers to help suppress potential

gainclone instability. You don't have piezos, I believe, and the resistors are there to make the crossover work.North Creek sells very nice resistors for that application,but I'm less sure it would matter, while the nice coils are a sure bet.Skip

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Subject: Kit components
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 22 May 2006 18:05:53 GMT
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Kits are shipped with a Jantzen 18 guage 0.5mH coil on the midwoofer, and a Solen 10uF cap on the tweeter. The damping resistor across the tweeter is a 16 ohm, 10 watt non-inductive part. There's still room for upgrades, but what we're including in the stock kits are very good components. Originally we were using Dayton caps and generic coils, both of which were pretty good. But I think the parts we're using now are a little better and match the sonics of the drivers very well. Makes for a very good sounding speaker.

Subject: Makes Sense
Posted by Skip on Mon, 22 May 2006 19:42:43 GMT
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The coils I replaced were the much smaller guage earlier ones, and I would expect that the 18 ga. Jantzens are discernably better. I expectthat the difference in caps is subtle. In any case the speakers alwayssounded good.Skip

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Subject: Re: Skip Pack -question on coil for Two Towers.
Posted by Shane on Mon, 22 May 2006 23:24:12 GMT
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Quote Skip: I understand there's a new amp in your life. I'd be interested to hear how it sounds on your towers once you've changed the coils, and possibly the caps.Well, I don't have it quite yet. I've put a deposit down on it and plan on getting it in a couple weeks while it's gone over and tested/tweaked. Looking forward to hearing it on the stock Towers, then we'll decide on new parts or not.

Subject: Re: Kit components
Posted by Matts on Tue, 23 May 2006 16:06:19 GMT

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Your kit compents are all fine & they all sound very good stock. Even though I like to experiment with upgraded caps and coils myself, I wouldn't want any boutique parts in the kits because they all cost so much and everyone has different preferences. Whether someone likes Mundorf, Auricaps, Jupiters, or some other flavor is a matter of each system, room, and personal taste. If you put these boutique parts in the kits to start off with, the prices would go sky high and they still wouldn't be the first choice for everyone. Experimenting with all of these is part of fun for DIY personalities.

Subject: Re: Makes Sense
Posted by Shane on Tue, 23 May 2006 16:56:27 GMT
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Good to know. I still am ending up turning the treble down on my NAD Bee integrated to listen. It just seems to be a wee bit hot. The good thing about the bass and treble controls on the NAD is that they really only attenuate those frequencies. So if you adjust the bass it doesn't affect the mids at all. Treble adjustment is the same way.It's probably just the amp. When I get the 12B4 we'll see what they sound like then.

Subject: Re: Kit components
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 23 May 2006 18:07:58 GMT
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I agree. I always use good technologies like poly caps, and I try to find companies that sell components like those at a good price. The Solens and Jantzen components are marginally more

additional cost over a generic in that particular component location.I like to use premium components in the Grande models but don't think their cost justifies using them in kits; As you've said, the prices would skyrocket (more than double in some cases), and the results may not justify the costs. And, as you've said, some would have different preferences, so it seems the best way is to go with good quality generics, and people can upgrade where they see fit, if they feel the need.

Subject: Parts Quality
Posted by FredT on Thu, 25 May 2006 09:23:31 GMT
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The stock parts supplied with Pi Speaker kits are comparable to those used in many $4K mainstream speakers like the Magnepan 3.6's (Solen Caps in the critical tweeter signal path, mylars and electrolytics elsewhere). Of all the crossover upgrades I have done the most cost effective has been replacing Solen caps with Northcreek Zen and Harmony caps. For example, a 10uF Solen costs $4.48 from Parts Express, while the same value in a Northcreek Zen is only $9.35. I'm sure some botique caps like the Audiocap Theta sound better (almost $45 for a 10uF), but for value it's hard to beat the Northcreeks.

Subject: Re: Parts Quality
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 25 May 2006 13:51:19 GMT
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That's reasonable, very reasonable.
