
Subject: OT: Computer Audio

Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Wed, 20 Sep 2006 17:55:06 GMT

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Any recommendations on quality computer audio (on the cheap)? I thought about building a pair of small FE-103E based monitors, but I'm not sure I want to wait until I can build them (since I would also have to build and amp). Plus, Fostex doesn't provide much bass unless horn loaded. So then I thought I'd just pick something up from Best Buy, but their stuff is all so cheap and cheesy (ironically enough, JBL is the cheesiest). I may ultimately do a pair of Fostex based monitors powered by a chip-amp, but I wanted to get some opinions from the peanut gallery (that's you guys) first. Any suggestions? Oh, < \$100.

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 20 Sep 2006 19:31:56 GMT

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That's the direction I'd probably go. A small high-efficiency driver that doesn't require a large cabinet.

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio

Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 13:32:35 GMT

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Could you recommend a compact subwoofer design/driver that would match well with the Fostex drivers? Something that might work in the 1-2cu.ft range.

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 14:08:39 GMT

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I'd look at the HL10 from Eminence.

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio

Posted by [Chris R.](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 19:15:47 GMT

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Funny, I'm on that same quest. My plan at the moment is to use some RS 40-1197's (cheap Fostex FE-103s) that I have and some Dayton dome tweets to make MTM config L/R speakers and use a sub with them. I'm considering preamp and amps from <http://www.dckits.com/audio.htm>. PartsExpress has something similar on sale for \$50/pr. Chris

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio
Posted by [GarMan](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 19:42:07 GMT
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If you're going for cheap and easy, pick up a SonicImpact T-amp. Check out Zaph's page for mini desktop speakers.
Zaph's

Subject: Very Cool
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 20:40:50 GMT
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His stipulation on teh sub-woofer may cause problems long term, though.

Subject: Thanks
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 21:26:14 GMT
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Thanks for the lead. A LM3886 based system was exactly what I was thinking of. The only question I had was the sub, but it looks like those kits will cover that problem as well. If the speakers that GarMan recommended are less than the Fostex's, then I may go that route with the DC kits stuff. Either way, I think we have a winner.

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2006 13:10:43 GMT
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Those drivers are extremely in-efficient. What would be the best way to drive them? Have you heard them?

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2006 13:47:03 GMT
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Ouch. A bit expensive for what I'm trying to do. Do you have any recommendations in the \$50 range? Or less?

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2006 14:00:30 GMT
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W1238R? Its a bit big. But would still work in a 2cuft box. I like that the other one you suggested worked in a 0.70cuft box and looked like a great driver. But I'm trying to stay on the cheap (WAF).

Subject: Re: OT: Computer Audio
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2006 14:50:41 GMT
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The HL10 is about \$100 retail. I'm sure there are cheaper drivers, but I'm not aware of them.

Subject: No Longer Sold
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2006 18:15:31 GMT
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DC Kits no longer sells their audio kits. Do you know any other similar vendors? I looked at Parts Express and didn't find the kit you were referring to.

Subject: Re: No Longer Sold
Posted by [Chris R.](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2006 20:54:41 GMT
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That sucks! No wonder the guy isn't replying to my emails. I don't have any other sources. I forgot about those T-Amps. Those would probably work OK. I looked up the drivers for those small speakers someone linked, and they are 81dB each. Way too low, period. I'm sticking with my plans. Chris

Subject: Re: No Longer Sold
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2006 21:27:50 GMT
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I looked at the T-Amps (if we are thinking about the same things, <http://www.audiosector.com/lm3875.shtml>). Definitely high quality stuff. Peter definitely has an eye for detail. I'm thinking the same thing about those drivers. Though \$70 for a pair of Fostex drivers and then another \$60+ for the amp to drive them plus a sub (\$150+) to fill out the bottom end and it starts to get pricey for PC speakers.

Subject: Re: No Longer Sold
Posted by [Chris R.](#) on Sun, 24 Sep 2006 22:19:43 GMT
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The T-Amp I'm thinking of is \$30 from PartsExpress (300-952). At least for me, I have the drivers already. They were ~\$10 at Radio Shack when they carried them. The tweeters I'm getting are Dayton neodymium domes for \$5 ea. I'll have 2 leftover FE-103's when I'm done. For the sub, PE has Dayton DVC woofers for ~\$25, and I already have a LM-3886 amp made up, so I'm out an additional \$70 (DVC woofer, T-amp, power supply. I have to make up an active crossover and I'm set. Let me know if you want the two FE-103s.

Subject: Re: No Longer Sold
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2006 02:00:04 GMT
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How much for the FE's? Sounds similar to what I had in mind. Three gainclone chip amps, an active x-over for the sub, two FE based monitors, and the sub. Hadn't thought about tweeters for the monitors. How are you planning to do the x-over to the tweeters? The x-over point would be so

high, and the speakers so close to the listener, that I would think there would be an issue with blending the sound of the drivers.

Subject: Re: No Longer Sold
Posted by [Chris R.](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2006 21:56:51 GMT
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Get with me off-forum on the drivers. tomnykds @comcast.netThe DCKits guy wrote back and said he get supply the LM3886boards and drawings but now whole kits, which works for me.The preamp kit is still available. I was going to write himback and ask about a small qty. of boards for this motly creq.Chris

Subject: eMail
Posted by [Spinjack](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 13:19:23 GMT
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Did you get my e-mail?

Subject: Re: eMail
Posted by [Chris R.](#) on Thu, 28 Sep 2006 01:43:53 GMT
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Sure. Did you get the reply?
