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Subject: Wayne - What are the fundamental differences between ....

Posted by [Derro](#) on Thu, 28 Sep 2006 22:58:13 GMT

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Hi, Given that the Thermonic 4, Theatre 4 and Stage 4 all use 15" drivers (albeit slightly different ones) and PSD2002 and the same Pi alignment - what are the advantages and differences between them? Which of them is best suited for use with a 300b SET amp in a domestic room of say, 18 x 15? Can I assume that the same answers would apply to the "Three" range? I would assume that the Thermonic 4 is the obvious choice, since it is designated "thermonic" but I also know that the Theatre 4 is very highly regarded for use with SETs also .... hmmm ... so which one should I aim for? Which is the more benign load that would be most suitable for single ended triodes? many thanks in advance and any comments would be most appreciated. DerrO

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Subject: Re: Wayne - What are the fundamental differences between ....

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 29 Sep 2006 01:44:40 GMT

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be, but I pulled it from the line a couple years back. It was very large, and I felt it was just too big. The Q of the Alpha 15 driver is so high it needs an open baffle or a really big box.

needs a large box. It is tuned to have a nice slow rolloff, so it works well near boundaries, taking advantage of boundary loading and room gain. The Professional Series midwoofer is like that too, but the box is much smaller and its midwoofer generates lower distortion because of its use of a shorting ring. The Stage Series is right in between, but doesn't have a shorting ring. It also is better with less boundary loading.

The thing with low power SET amps is they have high output impedance. That makes electrical damping less effective. So woofers that have low Qes will act like they have much higher Qes when a tube amp is used. Speakers generate back EMF, which is not damped by the amp, so response can suffer in some cases. If a loudspeaker's impedance curve has large spikes, then this will act like a voltage divider with the tube amp, which in turn causes response spikes.

others. All of the Thermionics and Studio Series models work well on any amp, including low power SET amps.

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Subject: Thanks for that Wayne.  
Posted by [Derro](#) on Fri, 29 Sep 2006 06:59:12 GMT  
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Thanks

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Subject: How big were the Thermionic fours?  
Posted by [Matt Presley](#) on Fri, 29 Sep 2006 12:55:19 GMT  
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I'm wondering now just out of intellectual curiosity. You don't still have the plans laying around do you Wayne? If size wasn't an issue, were there any conceptual or performance advantages over the Theater 4? -Matt

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Subject: Re: How big were the Thermionic fours?  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 29 Sep 2006 14:09:29 GMT  
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speaker.

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