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Subject: Big Ben and DAC1

Posted by [Wayne Carson](#) on Wed, 11 Jul 2007 18:50:56 GMT

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Hi all,

It's been a week since I hooked up the benchmark and clock to my simple 1-MEC w/two 8-in, 2-EDS, 1-C16 system. I used 3' apogee cables on both and one 75 ohm term on the MEC s/pdif out. I did not use a bnc "T".

It made a wonderful difference. I set the BB clock to internal at 44.1k and used the bnc out to the MEC. I set Paris to word clock. That's it. It locks at 44.1. I think I can even hear jitter on previously recorded stuff, specifically on vocals when solo'ed, but then again it could be the coffee!

I've run 8 completely different song mixes that I am working on and it is so much easier to find and correct things and so far appears to translate very similar to my simple home stereo system, bedroom Bose/CD wave radio and '04 Honda Accord car sound system. And that's what it's all about for me. This should make for a whole lot less trial and error mixing. My '06 Tundra truck sound system is not even close, but that's another issue.

In my studio, I individually A/B'd the clock and the DAC against the Paris L/R monitor out and internal clock. In each case the clock and/or the DAC cleaned up the low/mid mushiness, allowed the kick to be heard with the bass and not a boom but a punch, spaced out the depth, ambiance and stereo field and overall gave clarity to the mix. Paris EDS efx's are more distinguishable now.

Previously I used the Paris L/R monitor out to my 1604vlz (ch 15-16) trim off, eq flat, level at unity and the main's out to my Alesis RA-100 (yah, I know it's not so good, but I thought I was getting a decent flat ref amp when I bought it back in '96.) to yama's NS-10's and a sub under my desk for fill and to curl my toes.

I was very suprised to find out how bad the Mackie colored the sound. A very noticable harshness around 1-2khz and possibly higher, lack of warmth between 100-300hz and just an overall sound like crowded, cramped, busy and flat tonality. Tweaking the 3 eq's helps but only removed about half the problem. This is compared to the MEC digita s/pdif out to the DAC1 and it's XLR outs to the RA-100 to the NS-10s. This sound was warm and round, almost surround. It put a smile on my face.

I'm a happy camper. Special thanks to Dave, Kim, DJ, Miguel, Jeff and Neil. I guess my next purchase will be an appropriate reference pwr amp.

Thanks,  
Wayne

