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Subject: OT-ish: Car speakers - placements - and stuff...

Posted by [Kim](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 04:12:08 GMT

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Well, it's audio, so I'm sure some people here have opinions on it...

So I'm planning to complete the stereo in my "classic" 29yo car, and ideally don't want the stereo to be a visual highlight. Obviously I want it to sound good, but I'd prefer you couldn't see it at all if possible. I'm willing to make small sound sacrifices to make this happen.

Now I've bought a bucketload of speakers already. I've got some 4 ohm 8 inch and 5 1/4 inch woofers, and some ribbon tweeters, which are on their way. It's going to involve 3 stereo biamped tweeter woofer pairs, with the smaller woofers in the doors and the larger in the cargo area. The trick is, how to get them in the car without looking like one of those "my car stereo is my life" types. Sure I love audio, but I'd rather let sound buffs be impressed by the sound, not the visuals. They don't call it "audio" for nothing. ;o)

So a couple of questions...

How would a woofer go behind car carpet? Worse still, what if the situation necessitated the woofer being one third to half covered with wood at the front also. I'm picturing carpet hurting the mids somewhat. What about thick cloth? This cloth doesn't appear to be dense, but it's got a kind of backing sponge. I suspect that even 2-4k would pass through alright, which might just get me to tweeter territory...

Other options include just getting some color keyed paint and painting the speaker grills or whatever to make it look like it belongs. Mmm.

Any general stories on how you guys have handled car stereos would be appreciated.

Cheers,  
Kim.

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Subject: Re: OT-ish: Car speakers - placements - and stuff...

Posted by [Paul Braun](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 04:02:00 GMT

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On 1 Jan 2008 14:12:08 +1000, "Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote:

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>How would a woofer go behind car carpet? Worse still, what if the situation  
>necessitated the woofer being one third to half covered with wood at the  
>front also. I'm picturing carpet hurting the mids somewhat. What about thick

>cloth? This cloth doesn't appear to be dense, but it's got a kind of backing  
>sponge. I suspect that even 2-4k would pass through alright, which might  
>just get me to tweeter territory...  
>

Does it really matter? All the cool kids have stereos that have no  
freq response over 200Hz. As long as that woofer can make sheet metal  
buzz, that's all that really matters.

Save your money on those ribbons and mids. Nobody who knows ANYTHING  
about car stereo actually uses those things -- well, maybe some really  
nerdy old people, but certainly nobody cool.

pab

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Subject: Re: OT-ish: Car speakers - placements - and stuff...

Posted by [Kim](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 05:38:39 GMT

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Paul Braun <cygnus\_nospam@ctgonline.org> wrote:

>Save your money on those ribbons and mids. Nobody who knows ANYTHING  
>about car stereo actually uses those things -- well, maybe some really  
>nerdy old people, but certainly nobody cool.

Hehe. It's really very like that isn't it. ;o) I love the irony of having  
everything gold plated to play your MP3's. ;o) People don't seem to realise  
that the quality degradation of a good non-gold connector is so minimal that  
it makes an MP3 look like Everest...

I actually just discovered that, well, I'm now suspicious that I have revolutionised  
car audio in Australia without actually knowing it. ;o) Back in about '91  
I put a car stereo together from 8 ohm house speakers by using two in parallel  
to make 4 ohms. Suffice to say it blew away spending the same money on normal  
car speakers as I had twin 8 inch woofers and "real" tweeters back when subs  
and split systems were just a dream in the pants of some dude from the hood.  
;o) We demo'd it to both the store where we bought the head unit, as well  
as the electronics store who sold us the speakers and crossover components.

A year later the electronics store we bought the speakers from started having  
their own brand of 4 ohm "non-car" speakers made in Asia somewhere, and my  
mate who had helped me install the system in my car was training the stereo  
installers at the shop we bought the head unit from. It's a chain store so  
he trained people for maybe 10 stores in the top car audio shop in Melbourne  
at the time (JB HiFi for those from Aust).

The following year the Australian car audio show was blown away by some dudes  
who bought these speakers and installed them in a couple of cars. They won

every category because they got good speakers rather than crappy 6x9 thingies and built a home stereo into a car.

So while I don't actually know what went on in between, I am highly suspicious that I made a fair difference. Ironically they still don't listen to me about the gold plugs though. ;o)

Suffice to say I am benefiting from the spoils of my work here. That store now sells amps which also win every show, which will be in my car. There was talk of class A amps until I was told of the current drain issues... ;o)

...but while subs are different, I don't think many people are biamping the tweeters. I might win a car audio prize yet, and if I do I'm going to stand on that podium and say "If you use gold connectors to play MP3's you're a bloody moron". ;o)

I doubt I will bother to enter though somehow. ;o)

Cheers,  
Kim.

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