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".

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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.

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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

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Gantt Kushner on Wed, 11 Jul 2007 19:09:47 GMT
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Does the DAC-1 automatically take it's clock from the Big Ben?

Gantt

"Wayne Carson" <carson_wayne@msn.com> wrote:
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by BradLyons on Wed, 11 Jul 2007 20:43:26 GMT
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Yep! Clocking is quite important, and many are surprised at just how much
of a different a BigBen makes in most situations. I am running a BigBen
in one of my studios, primarily because without it--nothing could function
(I have multiple devices connected digitally as well as locked to house sync
across multiple locations). I use the Apogee MiniDAC off of my Digidesign
192I/O, but the DAC1 kicks butt too!

As to a better amp....NO NO NO, honestly--get some new monitors. The reality is if you're using NS10's, you're really missing out on a lot of other details. Without spending much money, check out the ADAM A7's. I own a set of the P33A's as well as a pair of the S1A's and one of the 10" ADAM subs. I'm getting ready to get a second 10" sub and (5) A7's for surround....you'll be stunned when you mix on these things, seriously.

Brad Lyons- Sweetwater
www.audioandmidi.com
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Bill L on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 02:41:54 GMT
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1

Posted by DJ on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 03:59:22 GMT
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Glad you got this happening. The DAC-1, just on it's own, will reveal a whole lot of things you weren't hearing before. Having the BB clocking the system will be a big plus during tracking because your A/D's will be more accurate and any D/A's that are sending signal to a cue system or outboard FX will sound more open and defined.

Good move.

;o)

"Wayne Carson" <carson_wayne@msn.com> wrote in message news:469527f6@linux...
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Wayne Carson on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 07:21:47 GMT
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Gantt,

No. The DAC does not have a clock input or output. I thought the same
thing at first.

According to the Benchmark DAC manual the DAC has it's own clock, sort of .
.. . It has something called UltraLock and is 100% jitter immune. It's an
internal D/A conversion clock.

In my studio the Big Ben is only used to clock one MEC.

You can download the user manuals at both sites.

Wayne

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:46952afb$1@linux...
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Wayne Carson on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 07:30:56 GMT
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Bill,

I did that, . . . sort of. The DAC has no clock in's or outs. I did run
Paris on internal clock and took the digital s/pdif out of the MEC to the
DAC and to the monitors and this is where I heard the biggest improvement.

Then I listened to my monitors without the DAC (my previous setup) and
clocked it with the Big Ben. It sounded more stable if you can understand
what I mean and did clean up the sound also, but not as dramatic or
noticable as with the DAC test.

Everything I listened to was recorded on Paris internal so my initial

recordings used Paris's A/D and internal clock. I think I can hear a little flutter in my recordings which I didn't hear before. I believe DJ is right. Once I record with the Big Ben I'll probably truely hear the clarity and separation.

Wayne

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:46959638@linux...
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Posted by Wayne Carson on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 07:36:35 GMT
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Brad,

I've read on this newsgroup and have to agree (if I understood the posts correctly, but am open to suggestions too) that the NS-10s, although a bit mid'ly and harsh, do a good job at throwing the bad things in your face. If anyone can make a mix sound good on NS-10s, then it's probably gonna be really good. Don't ya think?

Wayne

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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by BradLyons on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 12:49:08 GMT
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On one hand yes, on the other...no. The NS10's were a great representation of the real-world many years ago, and well they still are to a point today as well. BUT the quality of recording has improved so much and there are more end-users buying higher-qualtiy playback systems these days. It's easy to think everyone listens to MP3's, I can't stand them to be honest--the

audio quality is awful in even the best MP3's when compared to raw audio through high-resolution D/A's and monitors or high-end home theatre systems. I have clients buying MiniDAC's and DAC1's just for a home stereo, I even do it myself.

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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Gary Flanigan on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 17:33:10 GMT
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"Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmidi.com> wrote:
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> BUT the quality of recording has improved so much and there are more end-users
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I see no evidence of this at all. Perhaps you do because your clients have
studios and want a good system in the living room. I see the almost complete
elimination of quality home stereo equipment. Especially amoung younger
folks, they are likely to buy a little docking station for their iPod which
has the equivalent of crappy PC speakers. There aren't even any consumer
audio stores around anymore. The complete victory of convenience over quality.
What's amusing and sad is that we are all working at 24/96 or whatever,
with great equipment, and then the final product gets trashed upon distribution.

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Wayne Carson on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 18:08:38 GMT
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by rich on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 18:30:04 GMT
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I have a Crown and and Alesis RA also and your right - the crown gets very
hot after a few hours the Alesis is cool to the touch. But Crown also does

not use a fan and sounds great if your looking for an amp, I have never had
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by BradLyons on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 19:03:51 GMT
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Did you mean to match the NS10's?? The A7's are active, so no amp is needed plus they are bi-amped. As to the amp for NS10's, well I was a big fan of Hafler but they went belly-up. I'd have to say (surprisingly) the SL2A from ART. IMHO, there really isn't much to choose from these days as active has taken over so much.

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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by BradLyons on Thu, 12 Jul 2007 19:07:06 GMT
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Wayne Carson on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 05:16:29 GMT
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news:46967bda$1@linux...
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Aaron Allen on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 05:24:18 GMT
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Active rocks, better matching between amp/speakers and the signal loss from an amp mounted in the cabinet is so much less than even a 10 ft run of speaker cable. I don't have any specs in front of me, but I remember how absolutely appalled I was when I saw loss data.
If you're buying new, active is def. the way to go IMO.

AA

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news:46970c11@linux...
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Bill L on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 12:08:45 GMT
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> "Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:46959638@linux...
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by DJ on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 12:52:48 GMT
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The DAC-1 upsanples and reclocks the data stream so that whatever the Paris clock has done during tracking or playback sounds considerably improved when it hits the D/A converter. This doesn't provide better system clocking, but IMO, the Paris D/A converters are it's weakest point and the A/D's improve some when clocked from an external source. I really like the Lucid GenX-6. No need for the more expensive 96k version either, with Paris.

Deej

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:46976c86@linux...
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Rod Lincoln on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 13:50:27 GMT
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"Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmidi.com> wrote:
It's easy
to think everyone listens to MP3's, I can't stand them to be honest--the
audio quality is awful in even the best MP3's when compared to raw audio
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They're kind of like cassettes. Handy for learning songs, but not good. Most
of my friends look at me like I'm crazy when I say that. Good to know someone
lese feels the same way.
Rod

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Brad Lyons on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 14:31:56 GMT
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Rod,

Yeah---I'm with ya! I've always been "anal" about audio fidelity and sound,
I don't settle for low or even mid-grade. My monitoring setup is high-grade....
Digidesign 192I/O to an Apogee MiniDAC into a pair of ADAM Audio S1A's and
an Adam 10" sub, I'm about to add a second subwoofer for better imaging.
That chain right there is $10,0000 just to listen to 2-channels of audio
and believe me, you can hear the SLIGHTEST little detail. It's hard to listen
to CD's in that system because it's capable of far better fidelity.

Brad Lyons

"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote:
>
>"Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmidi.com> wrote:
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>Rod

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by TCB on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 14:45:37 GMT
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It's funny, you're about the tenth person I've heard talking about the ADAM monitors. When I hear 2-3 people say something is great I take it seriously. When it gets to double digits I start to wonder if it's herd instinct or conventional wisdom, which I have found to be fairly unwise.

Also, it's a FACT that most people listen to music via some kind of lossy compression. It might be FM radio, or it might be an iPod, but that's the way the world is going. I rip to VBR .ogg files for lossy compression (which I think is the best sounding out there, including Apple's compression which sounds horrible to me) and use FLAC for lossless compression. It sure beats carrying around a portable CD player and flip book of discs.

TCB

"Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmidi.com> wrote:
>
>On one hand yes, on the other...no. The NS10's were a great representation
>of the real-world many years ago, and well they still are to a point today
>as well. BUT the quality of recording has improved so much and there are
>more end-users buying higher-qualtiy playback systems these days. It's
easy
>to think everyone listens to MP3's, I can't stand them to be honest--the
>audio quality is awful in even the best MP3's when compared to raw audio
>through high-resolution D/A's and monitors or high-end home theatre systems.
> I have clients buying MiniDAC's and DAC1's just for a home stereo, I even
>do it myself.
>
>Today, you really just need ONE good set of studio monitors to mix on...likewise,
>it's not a bad idea to have a playback set such as the NS10's, but I'd not
>personally mix on them. I've owned a few sets of NS10's over the years and
>I've NEVER mixed on them, only as a reference. With real-world, pro monitors
>(the ADAM A7's and DynAudio BM5A's are really the entry-level to "pro" IMHO
>these days) that allow you to actually hear what is going on, that will
make
>more of a difference than mixing on NS10's. You can't mix what you can't
>hear. Again, I'm not saying not to use NS10's at all...but I'd not recommend
>mixing on them because of their legacy.

>
>Brad Lyons
>Sweetwater
>
>"Wayne Carson" <carson_wayne@msn.com> wrote:
>>Brad,
>>
>>I've read on this newsgroup and have to agree (if I understood the posts
>
>>correctly, but am open to suggestions too) that the NS-10s, although a
bit
>
>>mid'ly and harsh, do a good job at throwing the bad things in your face.
> If
>>anyone can make a mix sound good on NS-10s, then it's probably gonna be
>
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>>
>>Wayne
>>
>>
>>"Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmidi.com> wrote in message
>>news:469540ee$1@linux...
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>>> (I have multiple devices connected digitally as well as locked to house
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>>> As to a better amp....NO NO NO, honestly--get some new monitors. The
>
>>> reality
>>> is if you're using NS10's, you're really missing out on a lot of other
>
>>> details.
>>> Without spending much money, check out the ADAM A7's. I own a set of
>the
>>> P33A's as well as a pair of the S1A's and one of the 10" ADAM subs.
I'm
>>> getting ready to get a second 10" sub and (5) A7's for surround....you'll
>>> be stunned when you mix on these things, seriously.
>>>
>>> Brad Lyons- Sweetwater

>>> www.audioandmidi.com
>>> "Wayne Carson" <carson_wayne@msn.com> wrote:
>>>>Hi all,
>>>>
>>>>It's been a week since I hooked up the benchmark and clock to my simple
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>>>>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
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>It
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>>>>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
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>>>>much easier to find and correct things and so far appears to translate
>
>>>>very
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>>>>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
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>>>>L/R monitor out and internal clock. In each case the clock and/or the
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>>>>cleaned up the low/mid mushiness, allowed the kick to be heard with the
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>

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>>>>off, eq flat, level at unity and the main's out to my Alesis RA-100 (yah,
>>> I
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>>>
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>>> for
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>>>>I was very suprised to find out how bad the Mackie colored the sound.
> A
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>>>
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>>>>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
>>>>Paris since '97
>>>>
>>>>

>>>
>>
>>
>

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Wayne Carson on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 17:19:31 GMT
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Bill,

Yes. For me, the MEC s/pdif out to the DAC made the biggest improvement (more noticable sound clarity) even with the Paris clock.

I still use Paris's 8-in's A/D converters in the MEC when recording.

Wayne

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:46976c86@linux...
> So just to be sure I understand, the biggest improvement was just putting
> the better converters into the chain, with the Paris clock?
>
> Wayne Carson wrote:
>> Bill,
>>
>> I did that, . . . sort of. The DAC has no clock in's or outs. I did run
>> Paris on internal clock and took the digital s/pdif out of the MEC to the
>> DAC and to the monitors and this is where I heard the biggest
>> improvement.
>>
>> Then I listened to my monitors without the DAC (my previous setup) and
>> clocked it with the Big Ben. It sounded more stable if you can
>> understand what I mean and did clean up the sound also, but not as
>> dramatic or noticable as with the DAC test.
>>
>> Everything I listened to was recorded on Paris internal so my initial
>> recordings used Paris's A/D and internal clock. I think I can hear a
>> little flutter in my recordings which I didn't hear before. I believe DJ
>> is right. Once I record with the Big Ben I'll probably truely hear the
>> clarity and separation.
>>
>> Wayne
>>
>>
>>

>> "Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:46959638@linux...
>>> Wayne, I'm curious how much difference you would hear if you clocked
>>> Paris to the DAC1 alone? Have you listened to that?
>>>
>>> Wayne Carson wrote:
>>>> 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".
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>>>> could be the coffee!
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>>>> 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
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>>>> 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
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>>>> Thanks,
>>>> Wayne
>>>> Paris since '97
>>

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Neil on Sat, 14 Jul 2007 02:05:54 GMT
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"Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmid.com> wrote:
>
>Rod,
>
>Yeah---I'm with ya! I've always been "anal" about audio
fidelity and sound,

Is that what they mean when they say "sounds like ass"?

:)

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by audioguy_editout_ on Sat, 14 Jul 2007 06:32:40 GMT
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Better imaging with TWO subs???

David.

Brad Lyons wrote:

> Rod,
>
> Yeah---I'm with ya! I've always been "anal" about audio fidelity and sound,
> I don't settle for low or even mid-grade. My monitoring setup is high-grade....
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>>Rod
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>

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by audioguy_editout_ on Sat, 14 Jul 2007 06:33:26 GMT
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While you're out listening... Check out the Focal Twin 6

David.

Wayne Carson wrote:

> Thanks Brad. I'm on board for checking out the Adams. I didn't know they
> were active. That pretty much solves the amp issue. Thanks again.
>
> Wayne
>
>
>
>
>
> "Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmidi.com> wrote in message
> news:46967bda$1@linux...
>
>>I can get a mix to sound good on the Peavey Versaray, but that doesn't
>>mean
>>it will be as good across multiple systems. NS10's were wonderful in
>>their
>>day, but today---gear quality has changed dramatically. They are fine for
>>listen-back, but they won't show you in-depth frequency. Mix on any kind

>>of Adam's sometime, you'll know what I mean within 30-seconds.
>>
>>Brad
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>>"Wayne Carson" <carson_wayne@msn.com> wrote:
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>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>
>>>
>
>

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Nil on Sat, 14 Jul 2007 22:38:43 GMT
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He's going to sit on one of 'em. That way he'll get that spinal-
level imaging that most people find to be so elusive.

:)

"Dave(EK Sound)" <audioguy_editout_@shaw.ca> wrote:
>Better imaging with TWO subs???
>
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>
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>>>Rod
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by BradLyons on Sat, 14 Jul 2007 22:45:50 GMT
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Yep! People say bass is non-directional and honestly, that just isn't true.
 My room is tuned quite well, the monitoring chain has no short-comings from
the microphone to my monitors. By moving the sub around the room, you can
hear it's placement. Likewise, different placement yields different results.
 So I'm going to put one Adam 10" Sub on the left and one on the right configured
in a 3-way design.

Brad

"Dave(EK Sound)" <audioguy_editout_@shaw.ca> wrote:
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>
>David.
>
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>>>Rod
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>>

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by BradLyons on Sat, 14 Jul 2007 22:46:26 GMT
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haha!

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:
>
>"Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmid.com> wrote:
>>
>>Rod,
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>>Yeah---I'm with ya! I've always been "anal" about audio
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>Is that what they mean when they say "sounds like ass"?
>
>:)

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Neil on Sun, 15 Jul 2007 15:26:22 GMT
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"Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmidi.com> wrote:
>
>Yep! People say bass is non-directional and honestly, that just isn't true.

It may not be non-directional, but it carries so much energy,
and with waveforms that have lengths of entire rooms or longer,
it's "virtually" non-directional.
Not saying that two subs might not be beneficial - I've never
really mixed with a subwoofer, so I have no idea in that
regard.

Neil

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by DJ on Sun, 15 Jul 2007 16:34:02 GMT

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I'm using two subs here. You've gotta be very careful about phase
cancellation. Two subs can = some wimpy gradoo if you're not careful. Mine
are 7.5' apart and are firing forward, not inward toward the sweet spot. I
can punch a hole through the back wall with the LF, which is exactly what I
need for recording acoustic guitars and banjos.

;oP

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:469a3c9e$1@linux...
>
> "Brad Lyons" <brad@audioandmidi.com> wrote:
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> regard.
>
> Neil

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by audioguy_editout_ on Mon, 16 Jul 2007 03:44:34 GMT
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If you want better imaging, turn the sub off... really, you
will just be adding LF problems with a second sub. Use the
sub to check the LF content periodically, but mix with it
off... I use a footswitch on our LSR sub for this very purpose.

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>>>>They're kind of like cassettes. Handy for learning songs, but not good.
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>>>>Rod
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>

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by DJ on Mon, 16 Jul 2007 06:19:29 GMT
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Agreed.....my NHT B-20's have sume ot mono and a kill switch.

;o)

"Dave(EK Sound)" <audioguy_editout_@shaw.ca> wrote in message
news:469aeaf6$1@linux...
> If you want better imaging, turn the sub off... really, you will just be
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Gantt Kushner on Mon, 16 Jul 2007 07:32:44 GMT
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Yeah, but when you start doing those Club Dance Remixes of our favorite Bluegrass Classics... You'll be ready!

Anyone here remember a band called Run C&W?

Gantt

"DJ" <animix _ at _ animas _ dot _ net> wrote:
>I'm using two subs here. You've gotta be very careful about phase
>cancellation. Two subs can = some wimpy gradoo if you're not careful. Mine

>are 7.5' apart and are firing forward, not inward toward the sweet spot.
I
>can punch a hole through the back wall with the LF, which is exactly what
I
>need for recording acoustic guitars and banjos.
>
>;oP
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>"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:469a3c9e$1@linux...
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>> It may not be non-directional, but it carries so much energy,
>> and with waveforms that have lengths of entire rooms or longer,
>> it's "virtually" non-directional.
>> Not saying that two subs might not be beneficial - I've never
>> really mixed with a subwoofer, so I have no idea in that
>> regard.
>>
>> Neil

>
>

Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by Aaron Allen on Mon, 16 Jul 2007 12:22:05 GMT
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yup. Funny bunch, kind of a predeccesor to the new guys at comedy central,
Van Heffer. You got the VH album yet, it's on iTunes?

AA

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:469b1f1c$1@linux...
>
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Subject: Re: Big Ben and DAC1
Posted by BradLyons on Tue, 17 Jul 2007 01:36:52 GMT
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If everything is done right, a second sub is just fine---in fact, a very good
mastering client of mine turned me on to it. It really does make a difference.
My room can handle it, I built it that way :-)

Brad

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