
Subject: Things that annoy me now

Posted by [Paul Braun](#) on Sun, 16 Dec 2007 03:32:40 GMT

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Did some shopping today. Visted the local Fry's Electronics.

First off, I'm looking for a vcr for my dad. His died, and he's in the middle of transferring a bunch of videotapes to dvd. Plus, he uses it as the OTA tuner for his tv. He doesn't have cable or satellite.

Guess what? You can't buy a vcr anymore. All you can buy is a dvd/vcr combo player. And NONE of them have tv tuners anymore.

You can get a tuner, if you're willing to pony up \$300 for a vcr/dvd recorder combo.

Swell. Guess I need to hit the pawn shop and look for a decent used one.

Second, I looked for a relatively simple cassette-based boombox for my mother-in-law.

Yeah, right. Unless you're looking for something with cd and an iPod dock and multimedea flash card interfaces with a thousand buttons and flashing lights and audio processors, good freakin' luck.

I also listened to an assortment of compact iPod-based boomboxes.

They all sound like ass. Well, I suppose they sound OK for 2" speakers.....

And I got to auditon Creative's newest entry into the Bose sandbox -- X-fi.

Yes, it's advertised as a small module that installs inline with your mp3 player and gives you "better than studio-quality" sound by restoring what was lost during the squishing process.

To me, I'm thinking it will sound like overhyped highs and lows, with a lot of splattered sizzle. Like most Bose stuff.

To their credit, Creative didn't disappoint. Gawd, that sounded like crap.

And I saw a Sony desktop sound system based on a cd and mp3 player. Included a sub module and two satellites. 1.5" satellites. Yes, that's right. I've seen bigger speakers in headphones.

WTF are we working so hard at developing our craft for?????? THIS shit is what most kids today think is hi-fidelity audio. Hell, even I can make a mix that sounds good for the crap they listen on.....

Am I just getting old? Am I heading down the road to curmudgeonly ways?

Sheesh.

pab

Subject: Re: Things that annoy me now
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Sun, 16 Dec 2007 05:48:36 GMT
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I just analyzed and tuned a 50K surround system with full DSP (ethernet to all speakers) and it most righteously does not sound like ass.

I do think the "everything smaller" esthetic has made things worse tho.

DC

Paul Braun <cygnus_nospam@ctgonline.org> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Things that annoy me now
Posted by [Paul Braun](#) on Sun, 16 Dec 2007 05:50:01 GMT
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On 16 Dec 2007 15:48:36 +1000, "DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com> wrote:

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>(ethernet to all speakers) and it most righteously does not sound

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Phew.

Does me good to hear that. I would like nothing better than \$50k of audio gear in my house, but that's half as much as my house is worth, so that's not gonna happen. I'd love to have a full set of the SLS ribbon-based surround speakers, all driven by really beefy class-A amps.

But I completely appreciate that level of goodness. I've often gone to high-end stores and played with the goodies, and gone home depressed and insanely jealous.

I'm also glad to see someone realizes that home theatre sound is every bit as important as music reproduction. That's one of the things that is staring me in the face when we get HDTV later this coming year -- I want the surround system to sound just as musical as the stuff in my studio. I hate the systems that are nothing but sizzle and boom -- you don't impress me with a subwoofer that just rumbles and overpowers everything else. Make it smooth, make it musical, and THEN give it balls.

But then, the people who typically buy the biggest TV that will fit through their door, regardless of how tiny the room is, are also the ones who buy the biggest, baddest sub their utility service will feed, just so they can invite the neighbors over, put on some action movie, and go, "Listen to THIS!!!!!" When I go listen to someone's system and all you can hear is LF rumble, I want to whack them upside the head.

pab

Subject: Re: Things that annoy me now
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Sun, 16 Dec 2007 08:18:33 GMT
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=_NextPart_000_0022_01C83F92.56980E80
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Paul,

I whacked my buddy for just the same reason. He has learned not to overdue the lows especially on his low end surround audio setup.

We have to teach them one by one.
Tom

"Paul Braun" <cygnus_nospam@ctgonline.org> wrote in message =
news:oi9m3h7itc4di04d0gsf4uuqh7bpc3rf4@4ax.com...
On 16 Dec 2007 15:48:36 +1000, "DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com> wrote:

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I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, and you?

<http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html>

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charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>I whacked my buddy for just the same =
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  =
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4di04d0gsf4uuqh7bpc3rf4@4ax.com</A>...</DIV>On=20
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pab</BLOCKQUOTE>
<DIV>

I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, =
and=20
you?
<A=20
href=3D"http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html">http://www.polesoft.com/refer=

..html </DIV></BODY ></HTML>

-----=_NextPart_000_0022_01C83F92.56980E80--

Subject: Re: Things that annoy me now
Posted by [chuck duffy](#) on Sun, 16 Dec 2007 15:20:50 GMT
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Paul,

That's wacky. I bought a DVD player/vcr combo @ sams/costco last year for 49 bucks and it has a tuner. Maybe they went for more cost savings and started eliminating the tuner, but I don't know how they could get any cheaper.

Chuck

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Subject: Re: Things that annoy me now
Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Sun, 16 Dec 2007 19:31:24 GMT
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Bye-Bye for good....where will all the "rabbit ears go?"
"chuck duffy" <c@c.com> wrote in message news:47653442\$1@linux...
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Subject: Re: Things that annoy me now
Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Sun, 16 Dec 2007 19:33:22 GMT
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PS: Oh yeah, all this shit is made in China....that's a whole nother subject.....yikes !!

"tonehouse" <zmcleod@comcast.net> wrote in message news:47657af7@linux...

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Subject: Re: Things that annoy me now
Posted by [Kim](#) on Mon, 17 Dec 2007 07:48:51 GMT
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I think digital tuners are the reason. I'm not sure where the U.S. is placed

in this area, but I believe Australia had some of the first digital TV happening, and indeed were criticised by experts for moving too early. Suffice to say that I bought a DVD recorder 12 months ago. It has a tuner. It's analog. Digital tuners are more expensive and too many people don't understand them nor have an antenna which supports them.

I expect that manufacturers have looked at VHS and gone "Well, they're barely worth making anyhow. An analog tuner is cheap but will be useless soon, and a digital tuner is too expensive if we want to do it right".

I would think that a very good search would still find options, but I can see why they'd be hard to get.

But hey, all technology comes to an end eventually... except the wheel.
;o)

Cheers,
Kim.

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