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Bryston & PMC: The Hits Continue!

Major movies continue to be released using Bryston amplifiers and or PMC loudspeakers as the primary monitoring system for their music sound tracks. For many years it has been a goal of the recording industry to "close the loop" and provide the listener with an exact replica of the master sound recording reproduced in their own homes. It is gratifying to know that if you use Bryston amplifiers and/or PMC loudspeakers you will come much closer to hearing exactly what the movie sound recording engineer intended.

Some of the more "recent" movie releases are:

Contact

Titanic

Volcano

Mad City

Jungle 2 Jungle

George of the Jungle

Alien: Resurrection



Audio Q & A

Recently I received an email from a customer on our

WEB (www.bryston.ca), asking the meaning of the basic numbers and terminology quoted on amplifier 'spec-sheets' and how they relate to sound quality. I decided to share these answers as they will probably be very helpful to a lot of other people considering purchasing audio equipment. As a matter of fact, I think I will make this 'question and answer' article a frequent feature of upcoming newsletters:

Thank you for your interesting inquiry. It makes sense that if you are being asked to choose a product based on electronics terminology, that you should understand to what those words refer.

Q: What are Watts?

A: Watts are a measure of power. It is equivalent to Volts, (a measure of electrical pressure), multiplied by 1 Amps, (a measure of electrical current flow), and is roughly analogous to volume in fluid-flow calculations. More power means louder potential musical sound, but costs more.

Q: What is Distortion?

A: Distortion is a measure of the impurities added to a signal, such as music. If you have ever heard music sounding screechy, shrill, gritty or otherwise uncomfortable, you know what distortion is. Less distortion, (below 0.05%, for instance), means smoother, sweeter

music.

Q: What is Noise?

A: Noise is a measure of unwanted signal still present when there should be absolute silence. This can be in the form of hum, hiss, buzz, or any of a number of possible distracting sounds or combinations of them. Less noise, (below -95dB), means a more relaxing sense of silent background to the music, especially when it is supposed to play very softly and quietly. 4. Power bandwidth is a measure of how far up into the high frequencies, and how far down into the bass frequencies, an amplifier can deliver full rated power. Smaller, cheaper parts in an amplifier have difficulty delivering at the frequency extremes, and can make the bass sound pinched, and treble frequencies sound dull. A wider power bandwidth, (from below 20 cycles to above 20,000 cycles per second), means the amplifier will sound powerful and well-controlled from top to bottom.

Q: What is Damping Factor?

A: Damping factor is a measure of how firmly an amplifier controls cone motions in a speaker. It is possible for speaker cones to continue to resonate for a brief moment after a recorded musical note stops, blurring the music or changing the frequency response. An amplifier with high damping factor, (over 100), keeps this from being an audible problem.

Red Corner

Good Will Hunting

Mouse Hunt

Odd Couple 11

My Giant

The Horse Whisperer

Quest For Camelot

Mafia

Another unique area where Bryston and PMC have made a substantial impact is in the "post production" end of the movie, video and TV business. The purpose of post production is to add sound effects and voices to the completed video. The following are some of the animated TV shows and home video productions from Walt Disney, M.G.M. Columbia/Tristar, Hanna/Barbera and Dreamworks mixed on the Bryston/PMC monitoring system.

Lion Kings - Timon & Pumbaa (Emmy Award for Sound)

Babes in Toyland

101 Dalmatians

Recess

All Dogs Go To Heaven

Jumanji

Men in Black

Johnny Bravo

Invasion America

Toonsylvania



Q: What is Input Sensitivity and Impedance?

A: Input sensitivity and impedance are simply measures of compatibility between an amplifier's gain and a preamplifier's output signal size. Most amplifiers have input sensitivity around 1 Volt for full power output, and an input impedance of over 10,000 Ohms. That means they will respond correctly to the preamp's output without noise or distortion problems, and not add an undesirable load to preamp's output stage. Thus, when you turn your preamp's volume knob, sound will be at an expected level, not suddenly blasting, or on the other hand, failing to get loud enough even when the control is turned all the way up."

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