

Past Program Notes – Newest and Best Sunday, March 20, 2016

NOTE: these scribblings are simply my reflections on how the meeting went and they are purely subjective. It's my somewhat feeble attempt to give those who didn't attend a feel for how the meeting went. For more objective information, please read the Meeting Minutes when they are posted.

This was a really interesting and fun meeting. You can get the equipment list from the minutes, but we had some unanticipated equipment brought in that we hadn't been expecting. Member Wing Wang brought in an interesting Chinese single-ended triode class-A integrated amp which we listened to for about half the meeting. VP Dennis Juranek brought in a test AC setup using one of the very expensive Furutech wall sockets. It made a positive difference and we ended up using it for the integrated amps, the DACs, and the Oppo 105D. In all cases it provided a better quality sound than the high quality power strips we were using. We spent the afternoon listening to various forms of music. We started out listening to some CD's on the Oppo 105. Then Chuck gave a demo of some DSD files that was very interesting, but I felt inconclusive as we did not compare them to the same music on wave files.

We continued to change out equipment for the rest of the afternoon and the sound just kept getting better and better. The Chinese amp, while beautifully constructed did not seem to be the best match for the XTZ speakers. Don't know why, because it had great specs! We changed over to the Hegel amp and the sound got better. We then listened to some more high-rez files played on Member Shiva Sharma's laptop through the Oppo HA-1 DAC and once again the music sounded even better.

We ended up, strangely enough, going back to the Oppo 105 for some final CD plays and enjoyed the best sound of the day!

As you can tell, we spent some time making changes and reconfiguring the system. The final configuration really let us hear the great sounds the XTZ speakers were capable of producing. It was the general consensus of the attendees that these were a steal at the price they list for. I felt they produced what I think of as the GIGO effect. (garbage in – garbage out) They are extremely accurate and if the recording is poor, you will hear it... but, it won't destroy your ears. On good recordings, they play superbly showing intimate details of the music and providing a wide and deep soundstage. Really great value for the money at under \$1000 a pair, however, they may not be at their best based on the equipment in your system!

See the Meeting minutes for more details.

