

JANTZEN AUDIO

Choosing DIY kit model and component version / level

We often get asked which DIY kit a customer should choose and often also which component version (level) to choose.

These are not simple questions to answer, but perhaps the information in this article will help to shed some light on these subjects.

Choosing kit model:

In general we cannot tell you what you should build, as there are a wide range of personal factors and preferences that only you as the builder can decide upon.

Please note that:

- We cannot describe how the different speakers in the DIY kits we offer will sound compared to each other, as that will vary greatly depending on which set of ears are listening
- We cannot tell you how the different speakers in the DIY kits we offer will sound or perform compared to commercial speakers. Again for the same reasons as mentioned above and because we have likely never heard the commercial speakers that you already own

Before choosing what to build, it is a good idea to go through the check list below:

- Have I read Mr. Gravesen's article on the subject? (Click [HERE](#) to read it)
- What is my overall budget?
- What type / size of speakers will fit in the room I want to place them?
- Do I have specific driver manufacturer preference?
- Do I have overall design preferences / requirements?
- Do I have the amplifier / equipment that matches what I want to build?
- Have I read the full kit article(s) for the DIY kit model(s) I am interested in?

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Choosing component version (level):

It is important to emphasize that when Mr. Gravesen works on a new speaker construction, he always chooses a base level of components that he is satisfied with in terms of overall sound and performance.

For the higher component grade versions / levels of the DIY kits, it is highly design dependent if it will be a matter of a “night and day” difference, compared to the base component version.

It also varies from listener to listener how significant these improvements feel.

There will of always be noticeable improvements in areas like transparency and detail richness, when going for the higher-grade components, but they can be subtle in their nature and for some the difference will be more profound than for others.

As most audiophiles will know, we are working with “*diminishing returns*”, when it comes to the cost of better components versus the improvement / upgrade we get for that investment.

It will always be relatively costly to get those last bits of performance squeezed out of a speaker system, but for many audiophiles those subtle improvements are the pinnacle of the passion that is high-end audio and makes it worth the extra cost.

At the end of the day all of the kit versions / levels we offer have suitable components and it simply comes down to something as subjective as budget and what you are willing to invest to get even smaller improvements.

To read some of the feedback we received from builders regarding the differences experienced between standard type capacitors and higher grade capacitors, please click [HERE](#)