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Dedicated for our newest PODs

Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less

by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-30 04:37:32

toI've never really had a lot of problems with the dreaded fizz that some people would report, but last night I stumbled on something interesting!

I was putting my POD X3L through my little blackheart amp (with the tone controls set to what I know is flat... which isn't everything at 12 o'clock) and on studio direct it sounded good, but a little muffled... on stach poweramp (because my blackheart cab is closed) it sounded fizzy.... and I tried for 10 minutes to adjust the POD and the amp EQ to get rid of it but I couldn't

here comes the interesting bit:

I hooked up the blackheart to the speaker in my Spider Valve 1x12 (It's a Celestion seventy 80 which I replaced the V30 with) and the fizz was gone!!!!

Also with my SV112, with the V30 in it (before I changed it) there was a reasonable ammount of fizz when using the spider tones or my POD tones put through the SV..... something I noticed is that when I changed to the celestion 70/80 the spider tones actually became useable.... it was their fizzy-ness that always made me think that spiders were not as good as PODs.

so maybe the fizz issue that some people have (and others say isn't there at all) is caused by using certain speakers.... one of those to cause the fizz may be standard guitar speakers with the usual guitar speaker EQ curve!

I just thought I'd share this info with you all.

Regards

Rowbi

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [Karl_Houseknecht](#) on 2008-01-30 04:53:53

JBT is always fond of saying that fizz in the POD is caused by amp/cab mis-matches. Just like real amps don't sound great with certain cabs.

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [aural](#) on 2008-01-30 04:59:23

Could this be the first X3 fizz thread ???!

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-30 05:05:24

> Could this be the first X3 fizz thread ???!

no way.... the POD isn't causing the fizz AT ALL ;-)

I confirmed that the fizz was caused only by the guitar speaker.

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-30 05:11:31

> JBT is always fond of saying that fizz in the POD is
> caused by amp/cab mis-matches. Just like real amps
> don't sound great with certain cabs.

which I also believe is true... spider valve and V30 sounds a little fizzy to me :-)) but spider valve and celestion 70/80 sounds warm and smooth to me, even when cranked!

but the POD sounds I tested were a selection, even clean tones (twin clean delay) sounded a little towards fizzy, where as just change the soeaker for a more nautral one, and it's back to sounding great!!!

so all in all, as long as you can work out how to get your amp to have a flat EQ curve, then you can use just about any amp, but you would need a neutral speaker... that's what I'm suggesting **might** be the case!

if you have an accurate schematic of the tone stack in your amp, you can use this tool to work out where you need to put your tone knobs to make your amp flat... what a great tool! <http://duncanamps.com/tsc/>

Regards

Rowbi

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [robisowe](#) on 2008-01-30 05:12:52

I can agree with that. If you listen to the pod without any cab at all, it sounds like any other amp's preamp section without a cab. I remember trying to go out the slave jack into a 4 track back in the day and it sounded the same.

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [Ingolf](#) on 2008-01-30 05:13:00

Interesting observation. I don't see this myself.

I have an X3L, a Tech21 Power Engine (equipped with the Celestion 70/80), and a Spider Valve (with the Celestion V30).

While the V30 is a bit more present (or the 70/80 a bit more neutral/ or muffled in direct comparison depending on one point of view), the differences are only marginal.

Actually I like the V30 a little better.

I wondered (when I read that you chose to change your V30 for a 70/80) if the original speaker in your SV was a lemon.

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [robisowe](#) on 2008-01-30 05:15:02

I like my x3 thru a mesa cab with V30s better than thru my Tech 21 Trademark 60 (with the seventy 80) too.

No accounting for taste i guess :D

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-30 05:17:53

- > Actually I like the V30 a little better.
- > I wondered (when I read that you chose to change your
- > V30 for a 70/80) if the original speaker in your SV
- > was a lemon.

well it's possible, but it'd be a little difficult to prove that.... or of course if could be a taste thing?? the V30 simulations in the X3 and XT sound harsh to me just like the real speaker.... I think harsh is a better description of the V30 than fizzy.

have you tried using the SV poweramp to power the Celestion 70/80 and use that to amplify your POD?? sounds amazing!!! just make sure you're using combo poweramp, and not horrible studio direct that muffles EVERYTHING!!!

Regards

Rowbi

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-30 05:19:20

- > I like my x3 thru a mesa cab with V30s better than
- > thru my Tech 21 Trademark 60 (with the seventy 80)
- > too.
- >
- > No accounting for taste i guess :D

are you using cab sims within the POD though? as I am.... kinda defeats the point if you're using a cab sim, then a real cab... gives some odd results when you put it up against another rig (another guitarist) with traditional pedals and amp.

Regards

Rowbi

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less

by [Radley](#) on 2008-01-30 19:08:45

This is simply wrong - there is *abundant* fizz being generated by the latest Line6 amp models. May I suggest Q-tips or an ear-wax removal kit? ;o)

All we really care about is that the combination of the L6 amps and cabs sound believable - not which one is at fault for sounding "bogus". The two are specifically designed to compliment each other, so how can there be a "bad guy" in the equation? How many years does it take to make these two components compliment each other?

~Rad~

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less
by [Bluestone](#) on 2008-01-30 19:56:17

Hey Rowbi

Does the Blackheart cab work well with the 1x12? I've been looking at that set-up...and must admit it is tempting.....

OM

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less
by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-31 00:42:44

> This is simply wrong - there is *abundant* fizz being
> generated by the latest Line6 amp models. May I
> suggest Q-tips or an ear-wax removal kit? ;o)
>
> All we really care about is that the combination of
> the L6 amps and cabs sound believable - not which one
> is at fault for sounding "bogus". The two are
> specifically designed to compliment each other, so
> how can there be a "bad guy" in the equation? How
> many years does it take to make these two components
> compliment each other?
>
> ~Rad~

Not sure if you're missing the point Rad.... to my ears, there's no added fizz in the POD. anything that you may be able to describe as fizzy is because that's how the real kit sounds!! I always thought that of the V30 cab sims in the POD... and my spider valve (with V30) had the same fizzleyness to it. change the speaker in the spider, and the fizz goes!!!!

Also, using my Blackheart amp with its matching cab (a british voiced eminence guitar speaker) there's fizz there... hook it up to a neutral speaker, and it's just about gone (the rest I think is caused by the blackheart head which I'm going through the tube preamp of and causing more gain).

Regards

Rowbi

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less
by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-31 00:45:56

> Hey Rowbi
>
> Does the Blackheart cab work well with the 1x12? I've
> been looking at that set-up...and must admit it is
> tempting.....
>
>
> OM

do you mean, does the blackheart cab work well with the spider valve 1x12?? I'm afraid I cannot test that because the blackheart cab it 16ohm, and there's no way to use a 16ohm load with the SV. that said, it does make the blackheart head very fizzy with the POD... use the BH head with a neutral speaker and it sounds fine!....

bare in mind that there's not really any fizz when using studio direct, but it just doesn't sound quite right on SD.... too muffled not I've been opened to the world of stack/combo poweramp.

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less
by [jdalf59](#) on 2008-01-31 04:57:24

From my recent humble experiments with a valvr Jr head modified to be a power amp, i can vouch for the huge role speakers play. Been playing around with the 4 cabinets I have available People have probably worried around too much with the right power amp rather than speakers.

I get the best sound from my X3 from an Altec-Lansing high-fi cab that has a 15 inch woofer with a horn with an adjustable high freq attenuator. you can dial the horn totally out or cut it in with a huge range in tone. Very versatile The worst with a Peavey scorpion speaker which has a limited freq range, something like 70 to 4kHz. real "blanket on amp" sound. No fizz, but sounds

like it is in another room

It would be interesting if you could disconnect the speaker in your atomic and run it through various other speakers. I imagine a lot of the atomic magic is from that cabinet/speaker design.

We should take some ideas from the stereo/hi-fi folks here I think good article regarding this in this months Vintage guitar magazine

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers.....

by [robisowe](#) on 2008-01-31 06:58:36

No, Im using the poweramp output. It does require some tweaking of the high end in the patches (or make a new one from scratch).

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less

by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-31 07:01:18

- > From my recent humble experiments with a valvr Jr
- > head modified to be a power amp, i can vouch for the
- > huge role speakers play. Been playing around with the
- > 4 cabinets I have available People have probably
- > worried around too much with the right power amp
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- > I get the best sound from my X3 from an Altec-Lansing
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- > an adjustable high freq attenuator. you can dial the
- > horn totally out or cut it in with a huge range in
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- > It would be interesting if you could disconnect the
- > speaker in your atomic and run it through various
- > other speakers. I imagine a lot of the atomic magic
- > is from that cabinet/speaker design.
- >
- > We should take some ideas from the stereo/hi-fi
- > folks here I think good article regarding this in
- > this months Vintage guitar magazine

thanks for your comments... just out of interest, which PA mod did you use?? do you just put the 2 halves of the 12AX7 in parallel?

I think you hit the nail on the head... a poweramp is just a poweramp... yes of course they'll all be a little different, but the fact remains that most of the amp tone you hear is created by the preamp and the speakers, not the poweramp!

I think you're right about the atomic speaker.... but I get almost identical results at high volume from my atomic as I do from my SV112 with a celestion 70/80... i A/B'd them at the weekend! the only difference is that the SV needs combo PA mode and the atomic needs stack PA mode... the only difference is a little more bass response with the combo PA mode, which an open back combo needs whereas a closed back already has it.

my next project will probably be my atomic! I intend to modify the external speaker socket and selection switch so that the socket will become a marshall style black socket with the built in switch :-)) then with nothing plugged in, the amp will power the cab... with something else plugged in, the speaker will just be connected to whatever is connected.... so I can use another amp with my atomic speakers. the switch will then be used to convert it between this mode and the following mode: where the internal speaker will be connected to the amp and the socket will be a 2nd speaker jack.

the only thing this will stop me doing is using the atomic amp just with a separate cab... but I'd never need to do that because the atomic cab is good enough!

anyway, I don't know if it will work yet, but I think it will!

Regards

Rowbi

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less

by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-01-31 13:10:05

okay... so I've just finished my poweramp conversion mod on my blackheart head.... and as I mentioned earlier, using a more neutral speaker with the blackheart just about got rid of the fizz.... but getting rid of the dual gain stages in its preamp has got rid of the last tiny bit of fizz....

so if you're in the market for a home practise amp for your POD, and you don't mind spending an hour modding it, then I'd get the Blackheart BH5H head (they're releasing a 15 watt one too, so that may be suitable for gigs!) and to get the right speaker (the celestion 70/80) you'll either need to buy the blackheart 1x12 and replace the driver... or get a laney 1x12 ext cab.... there's one model that has a celestion 70/80 already in it, and it's around the same cost as the blackheart cab!

I'll have mod photos and a schematic for the BH5H poweramp conversion mod on my website soon.

Regards

Rowbi

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less

by [flmason](#) on 2008-01-31 16:24:26

Hi Rowbi,

Any chance the Celestion speaker is filtering out the fizz that exists in the signal as distorted by the POD? (Just a thought).

Problem is, these are supposed to be recording tools. So the real problem for many (who don't want to wake the neighbors up, LOL!) is fizz removal through typical headphones, studio monitors, and eventually what ever speakers the final listener's playback system has.

I could argue that fizz is in the microphones using your logic. I never heard any fizz when using real Marshalls and Fenders years ago, with a Boss DS-1... but as soon as I put mics to them and tried to get the sound I heard in my ears, to come back out of the monitors... fizz city...

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less

by [jdalf59](#) on 2008-02-01 04:26:58

Sounds like you are having more fun than should be allowed playing with your toys over there! The Valve Jr mod is called the "Loop-d-Junior" which is an easy mod, already prewired, take head apart ,drill one hole ,install new 1/4 inch jack,and plug new jack plug into old input plug. A fellow over on the Epiphone forums makes them and sells them on E-bay for about 20 dollars total.

It is for putting an effect loop in the head, but when you plug your input cable halfway in, it bypasses the preamp tube and is all power amp out and the volume control still works, very clever. The original input still functions normally if wanted. I'm not so sharp, but it is nice finding people who are!

The article on speakers in Vintage guitar talks of the importance in closed backed cabinets of internal insulation and cabinet size playing a big role in the dynamics of air push/pull and frequency cancellation. Really interesting. Mr Kolbe has obviously done a great job with that atomic cab, judging from all the Atomic fans

Re: Fizz is all in the speakers....POD X3 is [b]totally[/b] fizz-less

by [Rowbi](#) on 2008-02-01 05:22:51

- > Hi Rowbi,
- > Any chance the Celestion speaker is filtering out
- > the fizz that exists in the signal as distorted by
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- > Marshalls and Fenders years ago, with a Boss DS-1...
- > but as soon as I put mics to them and tried to get
- > the sound I heard in my ears, to come back out of the
- > monitors... fizz city...

you may be correct, and being the objective tone freak that I am here's the frequency graphs from Celestion of the 70/80 and the V30

70/80 EQ curve: <http://professional.celestion.com/guitar/products/originals/detail.asp?ID=15>

70/80 Specs: <http://professional.celestion.com/guitar/products/originals/spec.asp?ID=15>

V30 EQ curve: <http://professional.celestion.com/guitar/products/classic/detail.asp?ID=4>

V30 specs: <http://professional.celestion.com/guitar/products/classic/spec.asp?ID=4>

I can't really see anything in there that is different enough to notch out a whole frequency range that causes fizz... there is a little more cut around 1K for the 70/80 but there's still a little cut in the same area on the V30.

I did read an article about speaker construction the other day (can't find the URL now) and it talked about the dust cap (the dome in the middle of your speaker that sticks out at you) having a large affect on speakers that sound clean and do not colour your tone... it suggested that the smaller the dust cap, the less air can get behind it and resonate.... so the V30 with it's very small dust cap should be a very clean sounding and undistorted speaker.... I have reservations about that!!!

Anyway... at the end of the day I am unable to say for definate what's causing the fizz, only that I do not hear fizz withi the following setups:

POD X3L to headphones (sony MDR-V500's) surely this proves it's not the POD causing the fizz)
POD X3L to atomic 50watt 1x12

POD X3L to spider valve with Celestion 70/80
POD X3L to blackheart head (with PA MOD) going into Celestion 70/80 (the standard BH head has too much preamp gain and causes a little fizz... probably because I already use 2 gain stages in the POD, so a 3rd is just TOO MUCH)

setups that cause fizz:

POD X3L into standard blackheart head with standard closed back cab
POD X3L (or SV own preamp) into SV poweramp using the V30

Draw your own conclusions... but over the next few days I'll be updating my blackheart info page on my website (look for the still under construction notice at the top to be gone, meaning I've finished it)... it'll have the schematic for my poweramp input mod, which was jointly designed by me and the chap who actually designed the blackheart amps and the epiphone Valve Junior!!! Pyotr Belov Himself!!...

Regards

Rowbi

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