

BRYSTON



DEFY
THE
ORDINARY

OF
COURSE
MY NEXT
QUESTION
WAS
WHY ?

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NEWSLETTER

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ACCURACY VS PREFERENCE

Maintaining The Linearity Of The Incoming Signal

Hi Folks,

It's an interesting topic – **'Accuracy or Preference'** – when it comes to audio equipment. Here at Bryston we think maintaining the 'Linearity' or accuracy of the incoming signal is the most significant one.

Bryston has always sided on the accuracy aspect of audio gear design or what I like to call 'linearity to the incoming signal'.

One unique benefit Bryston has as a company is that we have been active from day one (1974) in both the Professional recording industry and Consumer market places. This gives us a real insight to the recording end in the studio of the music industry as well as the playback end in our own listening rooms.

There are a number of reasons why we feel LINEARITY or the accuracy of the signal path is the best option but one story I will tell you happened many years ago but still holds true today in my opinion.

I was involved in a number of recordings with Jack Renner and Michael Bishop of Telarc Records with Oscar Peterson in Toronto. One recording session that stands out was a recording



done in a Toronto studio called Manta/Eastern Sound.

Lorne Lofsky (a jazz guitarist) showed up for a session and he had his guitar of course but he also had an old beat-up tube amplifier with built in speaker. He ask us to 'mic' the tube amplifier/speaker for the recording session rather than the guitar.

Of course my next question was 'why' ?

His answer reinforced by belief that linearity was the critical component when designing audio gear. He loved the sound of his guitar playing through this tube amp and wanted as accurate a rendition of that sound as possible.



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MUSIC
WITH
EMOTION



Manta Sound, circa 2000

MAINTAIN AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE THE INCOMING SIGNAL



So when you think about it you do not want the recording chain to add any 'colouration' or 'preference' to what is coming out of his guitar/tube playback system. The same holds true for any instrument though – violin, piano, saxophone, voice etc.

So here we have an example where the accurate (linear) sound of the guitar through the speaker/amp unit was very important to the artist. So the job of the recording engineer was to try and capture this particular sound as close as possible while the intent of the artist was to produce a specific sound he found pleasing or had a preference for.

I think the same principle is valid in a home system as well. If you want to hear what the recording artist or audio engineer wanted you to experience the only true rendition is one that maintains as close as possible the linearity of the incoming signal.

I have no issue with people deciding they what a particular kind of 'sound' in their system and there are numerous products that provide those specific colourations.

In my opinion the mission of Bryston Electronics and Bryston Speakers is to provide the most accurate rendition of the input as current technology allows.

James