

POETRY CORNER

Madame Marti

And her china sounds offbeat
like the bells of the ancient century
church down the street
sometimes the smell of the city,
the spices of many people living,
leaving, receiving
rises up off the pavement from beneath
and I stare each day
another mistake, history made
gardens and mazes grow to time and
prayers
raising their years as if they were
handmade
then at night our statues come to life
breaking away gravely from their
constant state of indifference
to every breath that gingerly passes by
in awe
we were Gods
we were more than the light of an
ever-present sun
but as was revealed to us by abrupt
revolution
we share this space in the lines and
lives to come

by Adele Barclay

Note: Adele Barclay was a featured reader at The Scream Literary Festival in Toronto during the summer.

How to build your own car audio system

By Ben Westwood

You can have some great fun building your own car audio system. It will also allow everyone to know you're just around the corner. But you will need two things before you can start - a vehicle, and some money. I am writing to let you know what components you will or may need, and that you should do some research before you start.

The first thing you should do before you start is to make sure your vehicle can handle the power that your amplifier will require, by testing your alternator to see how much power it will put out at once. There is an easy way of telling if your amplifier is drawing too much power from your alternator and that is to just keep an eye out to see if your lights dim in time to the music. If that is happening your amplifier will be pulling power directly from your battery and that is bad because your bass will start to get fuzzy. To stop this you will need to get a capacitor, which will store up power and release it on demand, acting as a buffer between your amps and your electrical system.

To draw any power from your vehicle whatsoever, you need the brain that will play your music; this would be an in-dash receiver. There is a selection of in-dash receivers you can choose from and accessories to go along with them. In-dash receivers combine AM/FM reception with crystal clear CD, or minidisc playback. Some models even include navigation, MP3, or WMA capability. Basically the in-dash receivers start

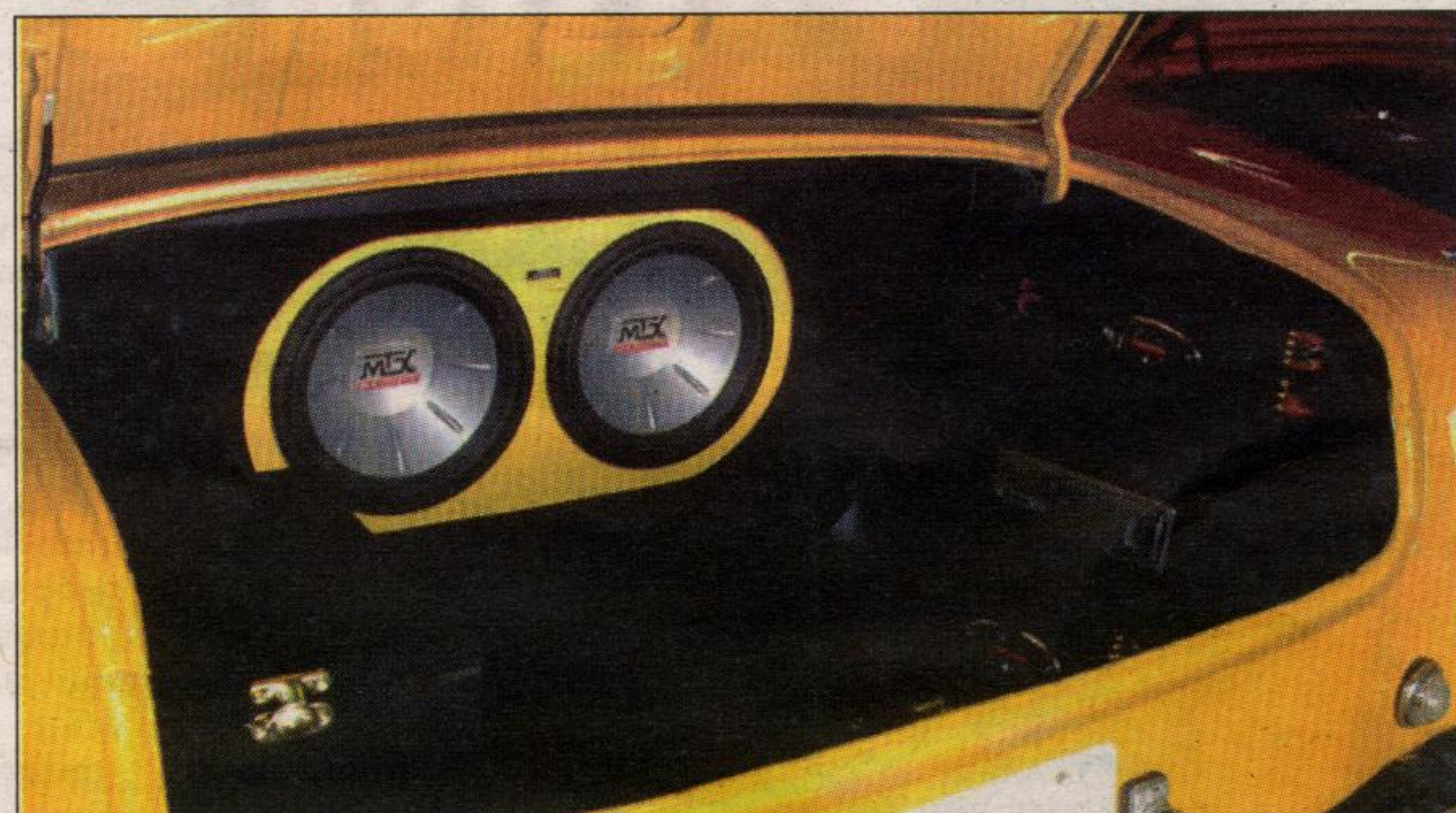
everything - you turn it on and it will send an audio signal to your speakers.

Your speakers are probably the most important part of your audio system, when it comes to how things actually sound. They're located in various places in different vehicles; some common areas are in the doors, dash, and rear deck in sedans. Most vehicles come with four speakers, but some come with six or more. You can make a big difference in the sound quality just by changing the factory speakers to after market speakers.

Once you get around to choosing the subwoofer there are plenty of options to choose from. You can pick dual voice-coil sub over a single voice-coil sub, and there are different sizes which are normally found between 8" and 15". You can run

more than one sub but it all depends on the amount of bass you want. In most cases, a subwoofer is mounted in a specially designed box. If you have a coupe or sedan, you'll probably install your subwoofer box in the trunk. For hatchbacks and SUVs, the most common mounting location is the rear cargo area. Bass frequencies need a lot of power, so you can't hook up a subwoofer directly to your in-dash receiver; you will have to get an amplifier.

Just remember a good car audio system is not necessarily the loudest one, or the most expensive one. It's the one that best meets your needs. If you need any more help or questions just take a visit to your local stereo shop, and while you are there don't forget to ask them about the proper wiring.



Two MTX 12" subwoofers mounted in a custom designed trunk.

Photo by Mike Pepper



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