

THE COCKROACH FEELING

By Aksè Pyrobrain.

Dear reader, I won't be too long, but I have something to say. My belief (chances are many of you do not share it) is that it's something important.

There is no fixed point in the space, and, because the universal laws apply to any situation of the same kind, we will never be at the same point and in the same conditions today, tomorrow and the following days.

As the result of chemical and mental reactions, our body and senses, change continuously.

Between this precise present moment and the coming ones, some differences take place.

In other words, it is a matter of age and experience.

This applies to music that we are listening to.

Music generates vibrations in our soul, but the same music finds, different ears and attitudes, from one day to the next, visiting new areas inside our system.

From there, any sound and noise that surround us, the presence of one or more persons, their location, their attitude, what they mean to us, tend to influence a lot our perception.

Last year I was invited to join a "shoot-out" between different amplifiers. The competition was run on the comparison of two of them at the time and the audience of about 100, had to raise their hand to indicate the one they preferred. The number of votes was recorded and, at the end of all auditions, the amplifier that had reached the highest total was given the first prize (symbolic).

I participated to it, but immediately felt sorry.

Was I entitled to express such an important judgment on the "creature" designed and assembled by a man with an unbelievable care and love, in just a minute of listening ?

I kept participating to the contest till the end, because I felt it was not fair to withdraw after having given my votes to just a couple of competitors.

However, when the winner was applauded, some thoughts crossed my mind:-

How were the losers feeling ?

What lead them to participate to this fight ?

To the first question I would reply without hesitation that it depends both of what they were expecting and their own way to face difficulties in life.

The second question reminds me of the first amplifier I had designed and built myself.

After evaluating its sound in my working room I moved it to the living room and, seizing the opportunity that some guests of my wife were present, I asked them to give me their impressions.

Everybody said the sound was pleasant or wonderful, or just OK.

Needless to say, I was very pleased and thought that this confirmed what my laboratory instruments had measured : low distortion and relatively wide frequency range (I do not remember exactly the limits, but the high frequency -3dB point measured exceeded 20kHz).

Few weeks later I bought a new function generator with which I repeated the tests.

Well, to my surprise, the former instrument (an old kit assembled several years before) was delivering no more than 5kHz while its panel meter was showing over 20kHz !

This cold shower turned to be a lesson to me.

First : what is the frequency range compared to the feelings generated by the sound ?

Second : how much can you trust people ?

Third : what was the share of politeness in the judgment they had expressed ?

And finally : had they listened carefully or were they still thinking to the conversations they had before ?

As regards the father of the amplifier, I would say that the most difficult decision for him to take is not to neglect the influence of the "cockroach feeling". From a friend living in Naples

(where they have a remarkable philosophy of life) I learned that “Ogni scorfano è bello a Mamma” , which means : “Any cockroach looks beautiful to his mother” .
Maybe some of the competitors of the shoot-out were not aware of this danger.
Aksè Pyrobrain.

Newt subject : “Non ti curar di lor, ma guarda e passa” (Dante : “Don’t pay attention to them, but just look and go on”.