

Re: RFT full-range sources? [Full-Range Driver Forum](#)

Written by Thorsten at 22 Jan 2002 02:04:00:

As an answer to: [RFT full-range sources?](#) written by tubesguy at 21 Jan 2002 21:56:03:

Hi,

>A friend recently demoed his new system composed of some drivers by RFT, a German company,
> mounted on an open baffle. Very nice sound, incredibly unboxy. (Well, duh!)

Yes, I like a pair too.

RFT was the East German Radio/TV/HiFi state owned "combine".

The Drivers where used up to the 1970's (approximatly) in Radios, TV's and Consoles. They have been out of production for probably nigh on 30 Years and most of the remaining ones likely got trashed in the aftermath of the fall of the Wall when East Gearman eager beaver consumers could finally replace their old, valve based, high sensitivity full range based, ancient and obsolete but good sounding gear for the latest plastic super cheap caonsumer crap made in japan, korea, malaysia, taiwan and china.

And yes, the Drivers are something real special.

I recently noted the old "50 East German Marks (= US\$ 5) each" 12" Fullrange Drivers (stamped frame, ceramic magnet, 100db/W) changing hands in Japan for a lot more than the (IMHO) superior Coral Beta 10....

The 8" Alnico Fullranges are like so much unobtanium (genuine unobtanium) that I'd just almost die for a pair. Also on my list of sadly extinct and super rare and amazingly good East German Speakers are the Fa. Schulze Berlin (I learned building speaker drivers there) 8" Fullrange and 12" Coax (like Isophon Orchester, but much more solidly made) and the "K20 Kugelbox" (Ball Loudspeaker) using the Schulze 8" Fullrange and made first in the late 70's - more than 20 years before Gallo Balls (and better IMHO).

Well, offers on postcard to me. Enough waving the East German flag and wallowing in memories, back to everyday business....

Written by Thorsten at 22 Jan 2002 13:00:58:

As an answer to: [Re: RFT full-range sources?](#) written by TobyO at 22 Jan 2002 11:06:48:



Hi,

>I have a pair of RFT 6 or 7 inch drivers.

>Here they are still online:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?>

[ViewItem&item=1296037480&r=0](http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1296037480&r=0)

[t=0&showTutorial=0&ed=1006038412&indexURL=0&rd=1](http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1296037480&r=0&t=0&showTutorial=0&ed=1006038412&indexURL=0&rd=1)

These are much later versions and REALLY bottom of the range. You need much earlier versions for the best sound. BTW, the large Driver in the attached picture is the 12" I mentioned before....

Just because the Driver is "RFT" does not mean it's ANY GOOD at all, actually often it means the opposite. But SOME Drivers under the RFT umbrella were very good.

Hi,

>If RFT's had alnico (ie old), would that be a safer bet?

Yes, especially if they also have the Aluminum fairly heavy stamped frame. The best ones are 8", Dual cone with a fairly deep, exponential cone and paper edge. They are high Q and were made for Valve TV Sets (and Radios) which in essence were open baffle enclosures and have high efficiency. And of course, being Alnico Magnet types for TV's they are "magnetically shielded".

They are very much unlike Lowthers.

RFT also made a range of 12" Cast Frame "Full Rangers". You can think of them as a well made Eminence Beta 12LT of sorts, with pretty good sound as well.

>What about the Russian Lomo drivers (goodmans copies)? are they any good?

Yes. The Lomo 12" and 15" Cinema Speakers are great. Then they made in one of the Baltic states copies of quite good 10" Sony woofers, dual Magnet, cast frame, long throw, excellent for subwoofers.

- or any other easter block driver tips?

The ones I'd recommend most are the ones from a small East Berlin private Company called Fa. Schulze. They made a pretty good flat foam edge 8" Full Range and a sublime 12" Coaxial unit. They also has some smaller units in the program, but these are real rare. Sensitivity on these is not as high as the older TV Speakers though, the TV Speakers used to give real room filling sound from a single 8" fullrange, open baffle with an ECL82 Single Ended Amp driving this....

No best, but (IMNSHO) the top 5 I KNOW personally are in a more or less ranking order:

Goodmans Axiom 80
Coral Beta 10
Phy-Hp 12" Semi Coax
Phy-Hp 8"
Schulze (East Berlin) 8"