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GOLDEN FREQUENCY

A story on Dhaka's audiophiles

Imagine yourself seated in a cosy café, accompanied by the subtle ambience of background music. Your date, however, interrupts with an odd observation. If they suggest that speaker placements will help avoid the need for high volume levels, or how a certain genre of music would help elevate the café's ambience further, you have likely encountered an audiophile!

"WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?"
So, what is an audiophile? Depends



stumbled onto the path, the next part of the journey is universal and that is understanding what you are hearing. This is a fairly involving process. You start understanding the language of audiophiles. The words 'Dark,' 'Bright,' 'Warm,' 'Airy' no longer apply to how you would describe a house and its inner workings; they describe the nature of sound a speaker/headphone/amplifier is producing.

Why is this lingo needed? Well, it is so that we can convey to one another, who cannot perhaps listen to the sound with the same equipment in the same environment, what we are hearing. Sounds daunting? Sure, but name another hobby that is not when you first get started.

Once you understand these things,

you will start to realise that your audio library, if you have any in this age of streaming and subscriptions, might be severely lacking in quality. And this will set you off on a quest to rebuild your library, even if it means scouring through obscure Russian forum threads late in the night to find a quality copy of that one random song you cannot seem to find anywhere else.

"I JUST CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU"
So, why would anyone go through all this trouble? The simple fact of the matter is the love we have for this hobby. How we stumbled into this world is a story as rich as the gears we spend our hard-earned money on, be it by happenstance, circumstance, or inheritance.

Take Ferdous Hossain as an example.

An extrovert by nature, the sudden psychological toll of being stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic was immense.

"The first few days of lockdown were honestly awesome. No rush-hour traffic, working from home, easy 5-minute laying in bed breaks — I was having a blast," shared Ferdous.

However, the fun did not last long.

"A month or so later, it felt suffocating. And with the severity of COVID going from bad to worse, I was having regular panic attacks and regular worries about decontaminating led to an OCD factor," added Ferdous.

Seeking a way to manage the predicament, he learned new things

"I happened upon a speaker review on YouTube, which is where I first learned of audiophilia. One thing led

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Reefat Khan, a musician from the "underground scene" during the noughties, said, "I used to listen to my favourite bands and instruments on Walkmans since I was a child. After I started performing, I realised how different the sounds and emotions are. And now that I do not play anymore, my goal is to mimic that same realism in sound and emotions that come when you hear an instrument or vocal in person."

"A HEAD FULL OF DREAMS"
No matter how we

on who you are asking. Google says audiophiles are 'Hi-fi enthusiasts.' If you ask me, it's the love I have for music and whatever it takes to get closer to the artist's emotions/intentions.

However, that is very different for Faraz Islam. "I was a casual listener once (read: listened to music on YouTube). However, once I discovered what a small electronic device could do to a song I had listened to for the umpteenth time, there was no going back for me. I was hooked on experiencing and experimenting with every new tech that hits the market," stated an overly enthusiastic Faraz.



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