

Wrong value parts are used for the input bandpass filter, effectively negating its effect and fouling up both the high and low frequency characteristics of the amplifier. Although these values would have been appropriate to try with an outstanding tube set and a solid power supply and bias supply, they are not useful with the crummy tubes and defective power supply that were in the amplifier.

The resistors Mottram used are not within our specifications. He didn't match pairs as specified in our parts list, and some parts do not meet our power rating requirements. I cannot understand how Mottram can complain about parts quality when he supplied his own poor quality parts. He even used 20% tolerance carbon resistors for grid resistors where we specified 1% metal films. The phase gain balance of the two channels is way out of spec due, again, to poor parts selection. By the way, Mottram wrote to Gregg when selling the amplifier and told him that he paid \$50.00 for the parts he bought from outside sources, not the \$35.00 amount he states in your article.

Finally, Mottram's layout was awful. The bias pots have been moved in the chassis and their excessively long leads crisscross the audio boards next to the feedback leads. All are too close to the PC card.

Mottram has reviewed his own bad workmanship and mistakes, not a Super Seventy. It's a credit to the basic stability of the design that it continued to limp along at all, still sounding "pretty good," as he put it, in spite of the numerous wiring errors, parts misapplications, and incipient power supply failure.

Because the PC card for our unit was so badly built (by the way, all the parts are directly marked on this easy-to-build silk-screened card) I highly suspect some of the other ST-70 mods in this review may have been miswired too. I doubt it is a valid report on any of the designs written up. His technical evaluations are blown too. For example, he claims one amplifier has a closed loop gain of 75dB (open loop gain of 90dB minus feedback of 15dB).

Frank Van Alstine

Roy Mottram replies:

It is unfortunate that Mr. Van Alstine considers the ST-70 amp he has in his possession is the one I tested for this review. Unfortunate, because the same chassis went through eight other modifications (four commercially available and four non-commercial designs) before I reassembled it with the AVA board and sold it, on an "as is" basis to a GA reader. Doubtless, with an older set of output tubes and a price of only \$125 to the purchaser, the amp cannot be considered to be in prime condition.

I bought the board from AVA, followed the AVA

parts lists carefully, ordering the parts from Mouser and Digi-Key. I consider the parts I used to be in accordance with what the AVA list specified. The unit was carefully assembled and set up, and tested for correct operation.

Since AVA offers their customers the option of buying their own parts, it seemed reasonable to follow this pattern since I assume GA readers can do so successfully and save money, which, to my mind would make the AVA mod more attractive.

However, neither I nor the editors of GA wish to be unfair to any manufacturer. If Mr. Van Alstine will provide a sample ST-70 modified in accordance with his advertised design I will happily test and evaluate it in the next issue of *Glass Audio*. I cannot promise to do listening comparisons with all the ST-70s in this review, naturally.

Sutherland

I am glad to see a comparative review of Dynaco options. Such third party assessments can give the modifiers confidence in selecting a suitable upgrade.

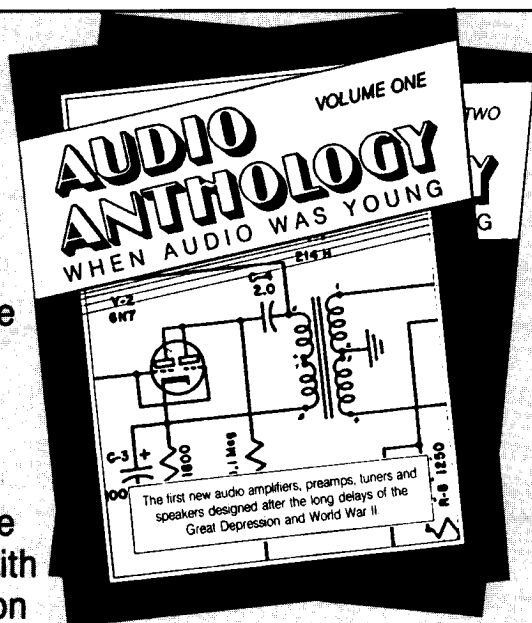
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