

resistors. The series connection ensures each resistor is operated well below its rated voltage and power. We furnished early versions of the Hybrid 70 with Mylar coupling and bypass capacitors. Currently, we provide polypropylene capacitors.

We also offer LED BIAS indicators to replace the front panel octal sockets. While the inductors won't improve the sound, they do make bias setting very convenient and accurate. You can use them with stock 70s as well.

The power pack board has three diode-isolated capacitor banks for the right output, left output and driver. Diode isolation prevents voltage drops in one section from influencing operating parameters in the remaining sections.

As some of our customers know, we do contract electronic manufacturing. Therefore, our business structure requires a significant volume to justify continuing with a product. It has been our hope to provide professionally engineered and manufactured upgrades to the audio hobbyist.

However, because of the low volume of sales we are selling out our existing stock at half-price. At the reduced price there is: no technical support, no warranty and no returns.

Quite likely, by the time this review is published our stock of factory assembled boards will be sold out. Please contact the factory for availability of bare boards with schematics and parts list.

Ron Sutherland

Here's a book about an upgrade that's so good and costs so little, high-end autosound dealers don't want to hear it—or even about it!

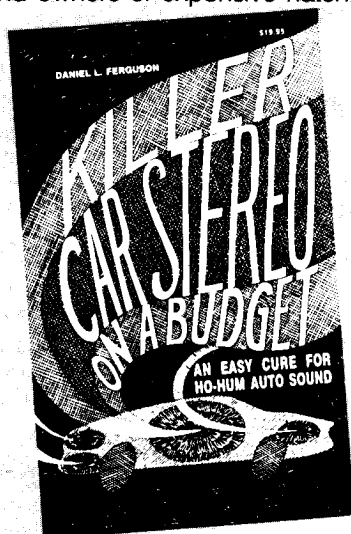
Killer Car Stereo on a Budget

Now you've got a simple choice when it comes to upgrading your car stereo. Instead of paying a few thousand to a good high-end dealer, you can pay only a few hundred.

With a good in-dash unit in place, you need only follow author Dan Ferguson's instructions for buying and replacing your front speaker, main speakers, and adding the killer—a subwoofer with enclosure, power amp and crossover.

Dan tells you where to buy all your high quality upgrades at low cost, including a choice of five-function crossover kit (parts less than \$30) or completely assembled, tested and warranted for \$70.

Your total cost for the upgrade can be less than \$500—about a third—or even less—of what you'd expect to pay to have it done for you. This bi-amped system has been tested and approved by audio club members, and owners of expensive hatchbacks, pickups and even custom vans.



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Curcio

I have always welcomed the opportunity (confident of the outcome) to have my designs evaluated in a subjective and objective arena. Accordingly, I'm pleased Mr. Mottram found the CAE driver module (ASM-3A) to equal or exceed the other units evaluated not only in measured performance but also dynamics, imaging and transparency (my often stated design goals). It is puzzling, given the effort expended in his evaluation, that Mottram has chosen to omit the most significant contributing sonic element: our power supply/regulation circuitry (CAE #B-S7P, nearly 50% of the design).

It has become a well known and established fact that quality regulation is mandatory in any vacuum tube audio design attempting to redefine the state of the art. Its omission is usually the result of either economic concerns or technical limitations. During private consultation with manufacturers having economic restraints, I have frequently demonstrated the dramatic improvement in imaging (to holographic levels), bass, and dynamic contrasts which result from regulation. Minimally, output tube screen grid regulation (in EL334 and 6550 designs) will provide improved bass and dynamics in comparison to the ultra-linear configuration.

The CAE ST-70 and MK-3/6 design modules incorporate low Z, dynamically stable servo regulators optimized towards these attributes. Although less significant, the regulation of the plate supply has audible merit and therefore has been included. To the best of my knowledge, CAE is unique in this regard. Finally, to ensure stable static operation in the presence of AC line drift, the bias supply is regulated using the traditional shunt zener scheme.

Our customers confirm our opinion that the CAE ST-70 in its entirety equals or exceeds the best commercial products available. We're confident that when evaluated in this context, the price can honestly be viewed as a bargain.