As for the complexity issue, again our customers serve as our barometer, reporting that the CAE ST-70 is easier to build than the original. This is certainly due to the packaging scheme employed. The entire power supply (less quad electrolytic and transformers) including all low and high voltage rectification, aforementioned regulation, and replacement left and right bias potentiometers (which Mottram claims are omitted), are contained on a single etched circuit board (#B-S7P).

The board is mounted on 1″ spacers below chassis level. The bias pots (plus measurement test points) conveniently appear at the front of the amplifier at the location of the original preamp octal sockets. The driver board, described in the report, contains its own high voltage regulator and mounts again on 1″ spacers above the chassis. This configuration provides an optimum air flow path to ensure proper component operating temperatures (including retention of the original cover).

Joe Curcio

GSI

I would like to thank Roy Mottram for his comments on our Dyna mods and to address and clarify a few points.

Roy's delay in getting his parts was due to a change in PC board suppliers. A form postcard was sent, but I guess he did not get it. We answered Roy's letter within two days, and this was followed by a BBB form letter. We shipped his product as promptly as possible. I remind your readership of our over eight years of being in business. Perhaps our sonic reputation is better than our delivery times, but we *do* supply, support and service what we sell. Now, on to the technical points:

I do not know what resistor brands or sockets Roy used, but I have enlarged both the pads and holes in future boards to be safe. We also currently supply, at no additional cost, a bias, high voltage and DC regulated filament supply PCB with all Dyna boards, and will provide this to previous buyers at no charge. As there are only eight connections for the power supply filters we felt a PC board was pointless. We chose the coupling capacitor value based on the better sonics of values from 0.1 and downward. The 5Hz LF limit is due to the careful choice of the loading resistor in the bias supply and there is no benefit (perhaps a loss) by using a larger value part. Roy's instructions were the first revision, and have since been made more detailed, and with larger computer generated schematics and insertion and wiring diagrams.

Although I am pleased with being among the top three amplifiers, I am concerned about Roy's measurement of 35V of output. This circuit should produce close to twice this value. It is possible an incorrect or defective constant current diode may have been used. I also optimized this circuit for the current Chinese 12AX7 as an input tube. I feel any review or construction article on tube gear should include the tubes used by brand and age, etc.

Andrew M. Fuchs

Roy Mottram replies:

I'm glad many other people share my bad experience with GSI; I didn't want to defend myself alone. Many people called in response to my ad selling the driver board I used in the test. *All* of them complained about delays or no response in their efforts to deal with GSI. Maybe they will improve on that. Enough.

I'm very glad GSI *has* responded to my review, and I'm glad to hear of the improvements they are making. Their comment about the output voltage reminds me how extremely difficult it was to find the constant current diode. Perhaps GSI could include that one part with the PCB kits in the future. ■

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