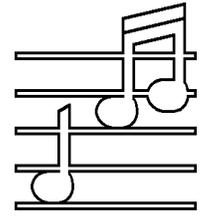


AUDIO BASICS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AUDIO INFORMATION
VOLUME ELEVEN NUMBER THREE MARCH, 1992

Ωmega II – our most musical and natural solid state ever.

We never quit researching, evaluating and designing. We are never satisfied to rest on what we have already accomplished. Even though our current generation of solid state components puts much higher priced commercial competition to shame, we always continue to research ways to make them better and more cost effective yet.

All of you who have purchased our Ωmega amplifiers, preamplifiers, CD players and tuners over the past year know that the musical quality was even better than you ever expected. *In fact, not a single Ωmega product has ever been returned for a satisfaction guarantee refund.*

But, no matter how much you like what we have already produced, believe us when we inform you that we have done it again. Our brand new Ωmega II circuits provide very significantly enhanced musicality – absolutely unique for solid state – *and at no increase in price!*

Actually there are two very pleasant price changes — *the cost of the Ωmega II CD Player and the Ωmega II FM/AM Tuner are \$100 less than their predecessors.* You get \$2000 class performance for just \$395.00.

Are earlier AVA components retrofittable? In general, yes.

Are there special low priced retrofits for *Audio Basics* subscribers only? You bet there are! Read on for all the details.

But I Just Purchased an Ωmega — — !

Don't dismay, it is still a great piece of audio equipment. But as a special offer to current *Audio Basics* subscribers only your price to upgrade an Ωmega unit purchased new from us in the last six months (since 10/1/91) to Ωmega II is 25% less than the prices shown on the Component Retrofit and Upgrade Price listing published later herein. Sorry, the cost of shipping cannot be discounted.

Ωmega Pat-5 and Ωmega Pat-4 rebuild kit owners, we must do the upgrade here. Because the new circuits are so fast (300 volts/microsecond) we need to insure that your kit installed layout will support the new circuits. Unfortunately we have seen some clients destroy circuit traces trying to upgrade boards. Our upgrade price is very low. We need to see that it is done correctly.

The Ωmega II CD Player

Because we have been able to make such big musical improvements so economically (using both new audio circuits and a new Magnavox CDB502 chassis) we have been able to lower the price of the Ωmega II CD Player from \$495 to \$395.

Because the Ωmega II is so much better than the Δelta CD Player and the price is so close, there was no point continuing the Δelta CD in production. Actually, if you ordered a Δelta CD recently, before our new price sheets were ready, you got an Ωmega II for the Δelta price. If you ordered an Ωmega CD since we started producing the Ωmega II, you got the new model and a \$100 refund. We have tried to be fair.

What you get with an Ωmega II CD player is all of the natural smoothness and space you would

only expect with a competitor's premium priced vacuum tube machine, but with none of its drawbacks.

The Ω mega II is more transparent, handles recordings of bad microphones better, is essentially immune from spitty "S" sibilants, and plays space and hall acoustics better than ever. Its 300 volt per microsecond high current audio drivers are so linear that much less feedback is used.

We suggest that an Ω mega II CD player sounds like a perfect phonograph, but without the mistracking, record noise, ticks and pops, and wear. The Fet-Valve CD player still offers more dynamic range and definition, but the Ω mega II dramatically closes the gap. You are going to love it, and at \$395 nothing else comes even close. If you are still stuck on records, now is the time to make the change.

Finally, because it is such a valuable upgrade, we are offering the *Audio Basics* special price to both Ω mega and Δ elta CD player owners. *Yes, you can upgrade a Δ elta CD player to an Ω mega II economically too.* See the retrofit price sheet for details.

The Ω mega II Preamplifiers

New Ω mega II preamp circuits are available right now too. We have complete full function Ω mega II preamplifiers available at no increase in price from the previous Ω mega model. Or, the Ω mega II circuits can be installed in your Dyna Pat-5, Dyna Pat-4, Crown IC-150, or Hafler DH-101 or 100 saving you the cost of a new chassis. In addition, Ω mega II do-it-yourself rebuild kits will be available for your Dyna Pat-5 or Pat-4 chassis after May 15th.

The Ω mega II preamplifiers offer you improved line and tone control circuits so smooth and liquid you may think you have a many thousand dollar vacuum tube preamplifier. Because these new circuits are so fast and stable, everything in your audio system will work better. Stress and rough edges from imperfect sources are gone, but the transparency and definition are better yet. With a new A.V.A. Ω mega II preamp there is no reason in the world to consider a competitor's more expensive preamplifier. The only possible improvements are

our very own hybrid units, the Super Pas Four and the Fet-Valve preamplifiers (or the Transcendence Two discrete solid state unit for those who desire its enhanced impact and focus).

But, with the Ω mega II preamp circuits nobody will be able to complain about solid state sound or excessive brightness – there simply isn't any.

Ω mega II is the ideal high fidelity preamplifier for those who want the very best there is but heretofore could not afford it. Now you can!

The Ω mega II Tuner

The same family of super fast devices that have allowed us to make major improvements in the Ω mega II CD players and preamplifiers bring even better musicality to our tuners too.

As anyone who owns one knows, we have been building the best sounding tuners available for years (other designers concentrate on blinking lights, DXing distant stations, and remote controls in their tuners – we design ours to reproduce music). But even those of you who already own a recent A.V.A. tuner will be pleasantly surprised to find out how much better high fidelity FM reception can get. When the audio stage cannot get into trouble, no matter what is injected into it from the equipment at the station and the whims of the ether, it simply plays back better.

The softness and space of the Ω mega II CD and preamplifiers are yours too in the Ω mega II Tuner and at a lower price than ever!

The new Ω mega II FM/AM tuner (built into a new SE-130 chassis) is available right now at the \$395 price of the previous Δ elta tuner (\$100 less than the first generation Ω mega tuner).

Of course the Ω mega II circuits can be installed into existing Hafler DH-330 or SE-130 chassis. Call us for details.

We will do our best to support our previous circuits built into Dyna FM-5 and AF-6 tuners too – but the spare parts situation on these very old chassis is getting "iffy". Call us regarding your unit, it is still possible that an Ω mega II upgrade is possible and is cost effective. We

still have the parts to do a few more new rebuilds of FM-5s or AF-6s but will soon come to the end of the line on them.

The Ω mega II Power Amplifiers

What in the world could we do for an encore? I am sure all you original Ω mega power amp owners are asking yourselves this right now.

The Ω mega power amplifiers have brought us many, many letters from happy owners expressing their surprise and delight at how much better their new A.V.A. amplifier performed than they had ever expected. Each amplifier seems to be its own salesman – winning new customers from the friends of owners. Time after time we hear that an Ω mega amplifier helped the musicality of the system so much that the owner couldn't wait to invite friends over to show it off or to take the amplifier traveling into other systems where it has been all conquering.

We suspect our Ω mega amplifier owners would be hard pressed to tell us what could be musically better. Well, it can be better and we have done it, at no increase in price for new units and at a reasonably low price for upgrades.

The Ω mega II retains all the original Ω mega design concepts – a no overall feedback amplifier designed with circuit modules each optimized for speed and linearity. Because no internal circuit element has to work hard to drive a load in and of itself, each element has been optimized for musical purity – each is a Grand Prix racer, not a tractor. But because of our active powered feedback elements, load nonlinearities do not affect the internal linearity of our audio circuits. The basic circuit board contains the regulated power supplies and all the matched and balanced (both electrically and thermally) discrete transistor drive engines. The circuit modules contain the “brains” – the lightning fast active signal processors. Because of engineering tasks of each section of the circuit have been properly identified, compartmentalized, and executed, upgrading the circuit with an even better set of “brains” is a cost effective process – one that would be difficult to do any other way. The cards remain, the control modules are replaced.

So, the Ω mega II amplifiers retain all the great virtues of the original Ω mega series (no DC offset, no need for a DC trim adjustment potentiometer, no significant on or off thumps, blazing speed, and superior durability and ruggedness). We have not had a single field circuit failure – the only warranty repair we have had to do so far was for a human error – a bad solder joint – and that was just one joint wrong out of tens of thousands done correctly.

The Ω mega II amplifiers get new and three times faster yet hybrid circuit modules – now about 300 volts per microsecond. Linearity is better yet, slew rates are up, feedback is less, and musicality is awesome.

Musically, what you get is everything there was before plus a liquidity and softness previously available in only the very best all vacuum tube amplifiers – but without their heat, expense, and poor reliability.

It is hard to explain. The gobs of power, dynamics, punch and transient attacks are all still there but now even bad program material won't stress your ears. You can stand to listen to Liza Minnelli's terrible wireless microphones on Telarc's Liza Minnelli at Carnegie Hall CD even at loud levels and enjoy it rather than cringe. The last vestige of steeliness is all gone from Sheffield Labs' Clair Marlo – Let It Go CD. You can play the trumpets louder yet on Telarc's Trumpet Spectacular – Doc Severinsen CD and enjoy it more.

The bass is rounder, the midrange is bigger, the image is deeper – it seems like your acoustic window onto the performance is bigger, clearer, and more Panoramic yet.

Ω mega II works better and sounds better yet. Its a better value yet for new owners and a very cost effective retrofit upgrade too – especially for *Audio Basics* subscribers. Call us now to find out more! Ω mega II is very special.

The following two pages show you the upgrade costs for all current AVA models (subscribers, remember your 25% Ω mega to Ω mega II discount) and the prices of all new AVA equipment, rebuilds and kits. Please call us before ordering to check on availability and shipping instructions. Thank you. FVA

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Component Retrofit and Upgrade Prices March 25, 1992

Chassis	From	To	Price	Notes
Dyna Pat-4	Ωmega	Ωmega II	100.00	
Dyna Pat-4	Any other AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	245.00	
Dyna Pat-5	Ωmega	Ωmega II	100.00	
Dyna Pat-5	Any other AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	245.00	
Dyna Pat-5	Any AVA Circuits	Transcendence	650.00	
Dyna Pat-5	Any AVA circuits	Fet-Valve	1045.00	
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas, Super Pas Two	Super Pas Three	345.00	
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	Add Ωmega Buffers	245.00	output and phono
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	Add Ωmega Buffers	145.00	output only
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	black AVA faceplate	75.00	
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	Ceramic selector switch	75.00	
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	AVA gold jack set	90.00	
Hafler (any amp chassis)	Ωmega	Ωmega II	200.00	
Hafler (any amp chassis)	Any other AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	695.00	
Dyna St-400, 410, 416	Ωmega	Ωmega II	200.00	
Dyna St-400, 410, 416	Any other AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	695.00	
Dyna St-410	Any AVA Circuits	Fet-Valve 300i	1195.00	
Dyna St-410	Any AVA Circuits	Fet-Valve 500	1795.00	
Dyna St-150	Ωmega	Ωmega II	200.00	
Dyna St-150	Any other AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	595.00	AVA faceplate + \$50
Dyna St-120	Ωmega	Ωmega II	200.00	
Dyna St-120	Any other AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	445.00	includes new xformer
Dyna St-120	Any Mos-Fet Series	Δelta	295.00	low noise regrounding
CD Players (610 or 502)	Δelta or Ωmega	Ωmega II	100.00	See Note Below
FM Tuners (130 or 330)	Any AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	100.00	

Notes:

You must call us at **612 890-3517** (ask for David Umeda) to confirm the status and cost and packing instructions to upgrade your equipment before shipping to us. We need to schedule your upgrade to give you good service. We need to confirm packing instructions to assure your equipment ships safely. Please wrap your unit in plastic before packing – lasers and heat fins and bearings full of dust don't work well. Do you have cats? Please tell us! One of our skilled people is allergic to them.

All prices are plus return shipping cost. Confirm the amount to add to your payment for shipping when you call for return authorization.

Our prices assume that you are sending an AVA wired and working unit not subsequently modified by others. Repairs may cost extra. Some units may not be economically serviceable at all.

If you do not see your old AVA equipment on this list, call us to find out if there is an upgrade available for it.

Upgrade prices assume **no complications**. If your unit needs additional work to complete the conversion (upgraded supply or controls for example) the price will be higher.

Upgrades are not available as user installed kits, but kit units can be upgraded if sent here.

CD Players will likely require a new transport assembly if they are not packed perfectly for travel. The current cost of a replacement transport is \$150.00 installed. This is in addition to the upgrade cost. Call us before shipping to make sure your unit is worth upgrading and that you understand how to pack it complete with travel screws.

Price List and New Products March 25, 1992

A.V.A. PREAMPLIFIERS

Fet-Valve Preamplifier	1195.00
Transcendence Two Preamplifier	895.00
Ωmega II Preamplifier	495.00
Super Pas Four Hybrid Preamplifier (Factory Wired)	845.00
Super Pas Four Preamp Kit	595.00

A.V.A. POWER AMPLIFIERS

Fet-Valve 500 Amplifier	1995.00
Fet-Valve 300i Amplifier	1395.00
Ωmega II 400 Amplifier	1295.00
Ωmega II 240 Amplifier	895.00
Ωmega II 150 Amplifier	645.00
Δelta 400 Amplifier	895.00
Δelta 240 Amplifier	545.00
Δelta 120 Amplifier	495.00
Ωmega II Integrated Control Amplifier	995.00
Δelta Integrated Control Amplifier	695.00
Super 70i Vacuum Tube Amplifier	795.00

A.V.A. FET-VALVE BRIDGE

Fet-Valve Hybrid Phase Inverter Bridge	395.00
(If purchased together with an A.V.A. amplifier)	295.00

A.V.A. COMPACT DISC PLAYERS

Fet-Valve CD Player	1195.00
Transcendence Two CD Player	895.00
Ωmega II CD Player	395.00

A.V.A. FM/AM TUNERS

Fet-Valve FM/AM Tuner	1195.00
Transcendence Two FM/AM Tuner	695.00
Ωmega II FM/AM Tuner	395.00

A.V.A. PHONO PLAYBACK EQUIPMENT

Longhorn Grado Z Phono Cartridge	99.00
Thorens TD-280 MKIII Turntable Package (includes Longhorn Grado Z cartridge)	495.00

A.V.A. REBUILD KITS

Ωmega II Rebuild Kit for Dyna Pat-5 or Pat-4 (specify)	195.00
Super Pas Three Rebuild Kit for Dyna Pas	245.00
Rebuild Plans & Bare Boards Only (any rebuild kit)	75.00
Gold Plated Jack Set for Pas or Pat-5 (specify)	60.00
Ceramic Selector Switch	45.00
Select High Gain 12AX7A Tube Set (4)	40.00
Install black A.V.A. Faceplate & Knobs (NA Pat-4)	75.00
Super 70i Audio Rebuild Kit	195.00
Input & Output Jack Set Kit for St-70	35.00

GRADO HEADPHONES

Grado SR-200 Headphones	169.00
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HUGHES SURROUND SOUND PROCESSOR

Hughes AK-100 Processor with AVA circuit upgrades	595.00
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AUDIO BASICS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Audio Basics Newsletter	16.00 (per year)
Audio Basics back issue sets (82 thru 91)	15.00 (per year)
Foreign Air Mail (Canada +4.00)	8.00 (per year)

A.V.A. PREAMPLIFIERS BUILT INTO YOUR CHASSIS

Dyna Pat-5 & Pat-4 Chassis

Fet-Valve circuits (Pat-5 only)	1095.00
Transcendence Two circuits	795.00
Ωmega II circuits	295.00

Dyna Pas-2, 3, & 3X Chassis

Super Pas Three vacuum tube circuits	395.00
Super Pas Three with Ωmega line buffers	575.00

Preamplifier Rebuild Options

Bridge Circuit Board (T-2 & Ωmega II only)	99.00
Ceramic Selector Switch (Standard F-V)	75.00
Gold Plated Jack Set (Standard F-V, NA Pat-4)	90.00
Black AVA Faceplate (Standard F-V, NA Pat-4)	75.00
High gain 12AX7A tube set for Pas	40.00

A.V.A. AMPLIFIERS BUILT INTO YOUR CHASSIS

Dyna St-410, St-400, & St-416 Chassis

Fet-Valve 500 circuits (St-410 only)	1895.00
Fet-Valve 300i circuits (St-410 only)	1295.00
Ωmega II 400 circuits	950.00
Δelta 400 circuits	595.00

Dyna ST-150 Chassis

Ωmega II 240 circuits	695.00
Δelta 240 circuits	395.00
Black A.V.A. Faceplate & Switch	50.00

Dyna ST-120 & ST-80 Chassis

Ωmega II 150 circuits (120 chassis only)	495.00
Δelta 120 circuits or Δelta 80 circuits	345.00

Hafler XL-600 & DH-500 Chassis

Ωmega II 500 circuits	925.00
Δelta 500 circuits	525.00

Hafler XL-280, DH-220, & DH-200 Chassis

Ωmega II 250 circuits	795.00
Δelta 250 circuits	395.00

Hafler DH-120 Chassis

Ωmega II 150 circuits	445.00
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Dyna SCA-50, SCA-80, & SCA-80Q Chassis

Ωmega II Control Amp circuits (SCA-50)	895.00
Δelta Control Amp circuits (SCA-50)	445.00
Ωmega II Control Amp circuits (SCA-80)	695.00
Δelta Control Amp circuits (SCA-80)	395.00

Call us for more details about the new products listed herein. Ask for our separate loudspeaker data sheets for details on B&W loudspeakers and call us about prices.

Check with us for special system prices when you order at least two pieces of electronics and loudspeakers at the same time.

All prices & specifications are subject to change without notice.

Call or write for availability & pricing on 240 volt equipment. Add 6.5 % sales tax for orders to be delivered in Minnesota. Sorry, we cannot accept Credit Card checks.

The B&W 804 Loudspeaker System

The B&W 804 is the smallest floor standing model of the famous B&W 800 series. As my clients are aware, we have observed that the B&W 801 has been one of the world's truly great loudspeakers ever since the design appeared in 1978. The free air tweeter, the no diffraction surface separate mid-range enclosure (made of concrete for the past several years) and the big, robust woofer in a big and solid cabinet has yielded a great loudspeaker design.

Over the years the design has been upgraded with better tweeters, better cabinet materials, a much more efficient, non-resonant, and more powerful woofer cabinet, and overall improved efficiency and power handling.

The current Series III Matrix 801 loudspeaker incorporates all of our crossover enhancements (inductors isolated to eliminated woofer - midrange crosstalk and the subsequent woofer and tweeter crossover tweaks removed). The protection circuits are removed (we don't think they did any harm but to make up for that the tweeter power handling is improved with ferro-fluid internal damping) – along with the electronic bass filter (no great loss) and the modesty skirt around the castors. But the price is lowered too (amazing in this day and age) and the musicality out of the box is now equal to a Series II 801 only after our fixes. This saves us work and you money. Call us about the price.

But even at a lower price the 801 is still expensive. So, from time to time B&W had released smaller and less expensive “800 series” loudspeakers. In our opinion, few have been as successful as the 801.

The original 802 was successful but inefficient. When the much more efficient 801 Matrix came along, a new and more efficient 802 Matrix was developed too – but never to our liking. While it had a spacious and airy midrange and top end, the bass power handling capacity was not adequate for the price of the speaker – not surprising since the woofer box was actually pretty small.

The 803 was a much more successful design in our opinion. It retained the great imaging with its free air tweeter, but it had a much bigger cabinet than the 802 and more robust bass performance at a lower price (our idea of the way to go to offer best value). We were not happy with a rough “zing” in the upper midrange and our circuit analysis of the crossover found an underdamped response peak in the signal sent to the tweeter. We critically damped out the electronic resonance (at no charge to our clients) removed the raw edges and now the 803 remains a great lower priced alternative to the 801, especially if exquisite cabinet design and finish is important to you.

The 804 is a small version of the 803. It lists for \$2200 a pair. We probably would be impressed with it except for our free upgrades to the B&W DM640 which lists at \$1500 per pair. While the 804 has a single 7.5” woofer, a Kevlar midrange, and a metal dome free air tweeter in a beautiful real veneer cabinet, the DM640 has two 8” woofers, a Kevlar midrange and a panel mounted metal dome speaker in a vinyl wrapped cabinet of much greater volume. Although the stock 640 is tuned for a “rock and roll” boom, we told *Audio Basics* readers a year and a half ago (12/90) how to take that boom out (it only takes 2 resistors) and how to make the \$1295 per pair (our price) DM640 into the best \$4000 a pair speakers they have ever heard. A lot of our clients have done just that and the upgraded 640 remains our best selling speaker. It is efficient, wide band, and is about 90% of an 801 at 1/4th the price.

In comparison with the upgraded DM640, the 804 just does not stand up as well – especially at a higher price. The 640 has lower coloration, wider range, and is more dynamic. The 804 bass seems to be a bit colored (chesty) and the slight spectrum of resonances go up through the midrange. Although the 804 is definitely better than most other brands of speakers in its price range (and is very attractive) we want even more. If you listen to an 804 against a stock 640 at a dealer, you probably will like the 804 better. That should give you an idea of how much our free of charge electronic woofer damping improves the 640. Deal with the salons and you get the help of salesmen. Deal with us and you have the expertise of electrical engineers at your disposal. Usually good engineering is better than opinions. It is your choice.

Used Equipment

Omega II Pat-4 Preamp (upgraded circuits March, 1992 – our pre-production prototype) with custom made gold jacks, ceramic switch, AVA buffered tape output circuits, dual tape monitors, and a very clean original Dyna faceplate and cover. \$325 + \$10 shipping with a one year parts and labor warranty. This is a great sounding preamp.

New Omega II 600 Power Amplifier. This 350 watt per channel (550 watts per channel in 4 ohms) beautiful monster is just what you need to drive big Acoustats, Apogeos, older big Infinities, paralleled big Magnaplanars, and other low impedance inefficient loads. It has 16 paralleled big die mos-fets and ±90V power supply and is all new in new Hafler 600 metal. \$2295 + \$25 shipping and our 2 year parts and labor warranty. It is the best we make and is rarely available. We have one now.

Frank and Darlene Van Alstine