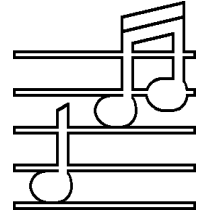


AUDIO BASICS



AN IRREGULAR NEWSLETTER OF AUDIO INFORMATION
VOLUME THIRTEEN NUMBER EIGHT LATE FALL, 1994

We are back, with new products, a new catalog, and up to 20% savings for current *Audio Basics* subscribers.

Actually, we never went away (except for three weeks in China in June - more about that in the future). We have simply had our collective heads down bringing a complete new enhanced function preamplifier chassis, new preamplifier circuit designs, and new power amplifier circuit designs to completion and to production. We finally have this all done. Next we had to rewrite all the necessary owners guides and update the product labels. Then we had to write new catalog text describing the new products and integrating them into our product line. Got that done. Needed more product photos too - accomplished that and got them into the catalog with the help of a Nikon Coolscan 35mm film scanner - the neatest computer add-on since somebody invented the hard drive. Of course about that time the old Mac developed a case of computer bugs - random crashing and eating of files - while we were trying to integrate all the text and photos into a rational complete catalog. That caused a two week slowdown of testing, crashing, burning, and trying again. *Anyway* - we got those difficulties resolved and so at long last enclosed is our new catalog for you with lots of new and upgraded products all set to go.

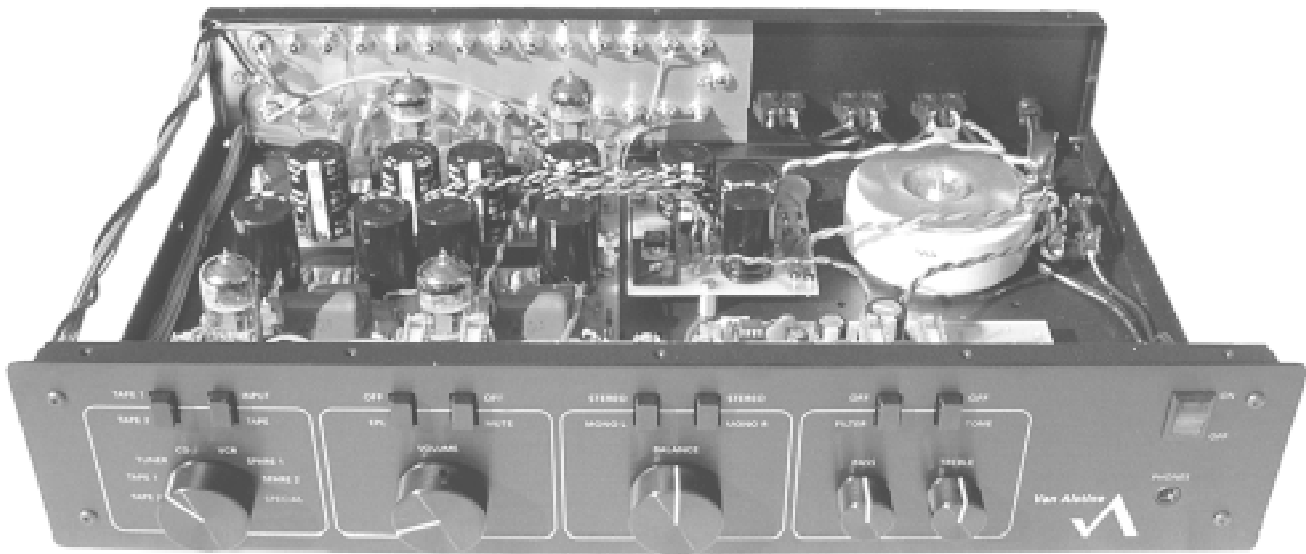
These are the Major New Product Developments:

1. **The Omega III Power Amplifiers.** A very significant enhancement to our active feedback Omega II amplifier designs. By incorporating very fast hybrid current amplifier chips into both the active feedback and input circuits we gained an order of magnitude current drive in these internal stages, providing a dramatic improvement in overall dynamics and transparency of the amplifiers (and they were excellent to start with). Probably one of the happiest aspects of the new amplifiers is how well they interface with less than perfect source material. Even with TV or radio sound sources the sense of reality in the musical presentation is startling. On live material it puts you in the audience. On studio material it puts you in the control room. The enjoyment factor is very high indeed.

Note that because of production economies **the new Omega III amplifiers are lower priced** than their predecessors - and with the special offer for current subscribers we will talk about on page four, now is the best possible time for you to treat yourself to a new amplifier.

We have not overlooked past customers, the new Omega III audio board set is retrofittable into existing Omega or Omega II amplifiers (in both AVA and Dyna/Hafler chassis) at \$300 plus return shipping. This factory conversion upgrades the older amplifier to new. See the enclosed new retrofit price sheet for all current upgrade options.

2. **The new EC (Enhanced Capability) AVA preamplifier chassis.** This 17" wide x 3.5" high x 11.5" deep 16 pound rugged black beauty provides you with more control and switching functions than ever. It has gold contact push-button switches, a switchable EPL loop for optimal use of a home theater processor, switchable tone controls, eight sets of switched inputs with optional RIAA phono, phase inverter, and (in Omega III units) tape buffers. It includes a built-in headphone amp, fused switched AC outlets, dual tape monitors, dual audio outputs, and more.



The new EC Preamp Chassis, available with two different circuit sets and many options.

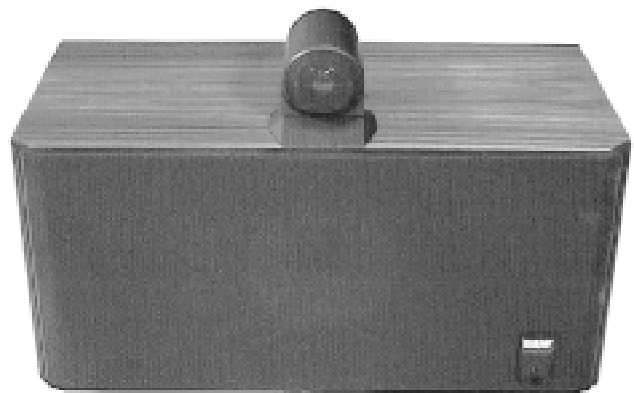
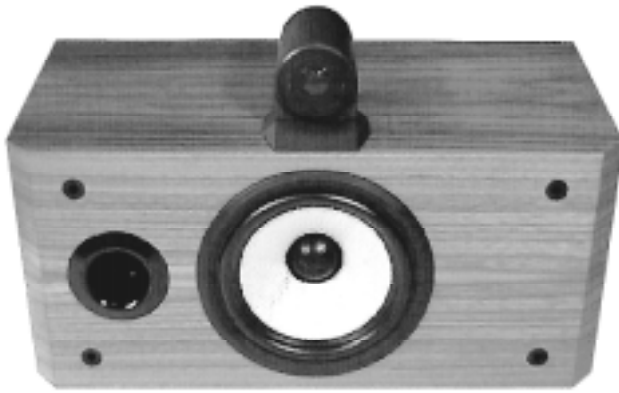
Our famous Fet Valve hybrid vacuum tube and power mos-fet preamplifier circuit set is now available in the new EC chassis as shown above. Switchable tone controls are standard, either Fet Valve RIAA phono circuits or our great Fet Valve hybrid inverter bridge circuits are available as rationally priced options. The new layout provides a very quiet and very durable mechanical package and all the functions you can use (read more about it in the catalog). Of course the simpler, smaller, and lower priced Fet Valve SL (straight line) preamp remains available in our compact 12" x 9" x 3.5" chassis for those who want our gorgeous Fet Valve sound but not the extra functions.

3. The Omega III Hybrid Buffered Solid State Preamplifier. Exquisite musicality and dynamics at the lowest possible price. We have combined our super fast integrated circuit designs with hybrid current buffers in every stage to provide the dynamic range and punch of high energy esoteric designs but without high price tags. The Omega III preamp circuits make a big, big musical difference in line, phono, inverter, and tape buffer designs. Wherever they are used, the music comes to life (without any traces of harshness or excess).

The base price for the Omega III EC preamp, in our big new chassis, complete with tone controls, headphone amplifier, gold contact push-button switches and jacks, and room for many options is just \$495. Omega III hybrid buffered RIAA phono, inverter, and tape buffer circuit options are just \$90 each installed (all will fit).

The Omega III SL (straight line) Preamp is available too in our smaller chassis starting at \$395. It will provide you with the same great sound, but with "only" six sets of inputs and without tone controls.

We have designed a complete new PC card set for the Omega III circuits. The new board set can be retrofitted and/or added into existing AVA chassis Omega II preamplifiers at \$100 per circuit required (line, phono, inverter, and tape buffers) minimum \$200 retrofit cost. Retrofits into older Dyna and Hafler chassis are probably not economically practical so we have not listed them in the catalog or retrofit price sheet. With these preamplifiers a replacement with our new chassis makes more sense. However if you really want to keep the old Dyna chassis for sentimental reasons, call us, we can probably work something out to get the newest circuits in it too.



Finally, a true high fidelity wide range shielded all purpose video speaker, the B&W HTM

The B&W Matrix HTM, a great new speaker!

It is really a vastly improved 805 at no increase in price.

It is magnetically shielded so it can be close to your TV monitor (actually it was designed to be the center channel and side/rear channel companions in a 801, 802, or 803 equipped surround sound system) for those that value musical sonic quality most of all.

It has the famous B&W Kevlar bass-midrange cone and the 800 series free-air tweeter design. These provide superior clarity, space, and air, with no rough edges at all.

The cabinet volume is significantly greater than with the 805 so that bass dynamics, impact, range, and perceived efficiency are usefully much better. It has an 8 ohm rating and 88 dB sensitivity so it will work with most any amplifier (but the better the quality of the amplifier the better the sound of course). The frequency response specification is ± 2 dB from 63 Hz to 20 KHz and that is really wide band for a small package. Measured distortion is very low.

Its horizontal layout allows it to fit in small spaces. You could sneak it into an eleven inch high shelf if you had to. It is 10" high x 17" wide x 9" deep and weighs 19 pounds.

The real wood finishes are beautiful. I like the walnut finish best with the chocolate brown grill and trim, but it is also available in a very black black ash with black grill cloth and trim.

Best of all the Matrix Home Theater Monitor (HTM) really is a musical and enjoyable loudspeaker no matter what its intended use. It is spacious, clear, defined, and gutty with no colorations or aberrations worth noting. Certainly it does not have the bass wallop of big 801s (or our upgraded 640i models) but for a little package it out-does itself. It is the first small B&W good enough to make me forget the now discontinued CM-1s.

The HTM significantly enhances the ability of a center channel to handle difficult voices and sonic combinations that cause less capable speakers to go harsh, flat and congested. Of course these capabilities are just what you need in any application.

So, although it is priced and sold in single units (\$800 list price each - same price as the much less capable 805) don't overlook it for your main stereo pair in a space limited basic audio system. I am using a pair in my own video system, driven by an Ω mega III 200 power amp, fed directly from the variable audio outputs of my big Sony monitor, and the results are exquisite. I turn on the Hughes Surround Sound when useful and enjoy high definition video musicality with a minimum of links and gadgets.

By the way, I lean heavily toward using the HTMs along with bigger 800 series speakers in a deluxe multichannel home theater system because quality always wins out over quantity. Rarely will you run out of dynamic range, and always you will have purer musicality.

The Great New Product Introduction Sale!

For current *Audio Basics* subscribers only (you are current if we mailed you this issue and the AVA Winter '94 catalog by December, 1994) on orders placed by January 15, 1995:

- Take 20% off the catalog price of any new factory wired AVA amplifier or preamplifier described in the Winter '94 catalog (including options) – and phono cartridges too.
- Take 15% off the list price of almost everything else in this catalog – including kits, rebuilds, and the retrofits shown on the next page of this newsletter.
- If you order a complete system (at least two AVA electronics components and matching speakers) take 20% off the complete system list price and we will pay shipping in the continental U.S.A. too.
- The fine print: No discounts on bare boards, plans, repair parts, repair labor, and shipping charges. No trade-ins, trade-ups, or satisfaction guarantee returns on sale items. These sales must be final at these prices. No retroactive price reductions, the sale starts now. Our new extended three year parts and labor warranty does apply per the catalog. If past history repeats itself, you will swamp us with orders, so give us a bit more time to fill them (three to six weeks).
- Deduct the cost of your 1994 and 1995 *Audio Basics* subscriptions from your sale order too – we didn't give you enough issues this year, sorry we couldn't do more.
- Order NOW if you want it by Christmas. We will try, but time is short. We will send Christmas gift cards for you as appropriate if the equipment cannot make it in time.

The new Factory Retrofit and Upgrade List

The following page shows all of the currently available AVA factory upgrades and retrofits for older AVA components, wired or kit built.

These retrofits will bring older components up to new factory musical performance standards, using the same circuit designs (but not necessarily identical PC boards) as in current new production.

In general it will be more economical for you to get new performance with a factory upgrade than by selling the old equipment and buying new.

However, this is not necessarily true with some older chassis where the upgrade is extensive. For example, it is more economical to simply

buy a new Super Pas 3i preamplifier outright (note the lower prices in the Winter '94 catalog) than it is to put new circuits, jacks, tubes, and switches in an old Pas or Super Pas. This is simply because the retrofit labor is greater than that required to build new. Major upgrades to an older Pas chassis should be undertaken only for sentimental reasons.

In contrast, upgrading Ω mega or Ω mega II amps and preamps to Ω mega III configuration is an excellent value and provides instant "oh boy" musicality improvements. Think about these upgrades now while the sale is on for even more value.

Component Factory Retrofit and Upgrade Prices December 1, 1994

Chassis	From	To	Price	Notes
Preamplifiers				
AVA	Fet Valve Line Preamp	Add Phono or Inverter	250.00	either but not both
AVA	Super Pas 4 (kit or wired)	Super Pas 4i	75.00	major low cost upgrade
AVA	Super Pas 3i	Super Pas 4i	200.00	
AVA	Ωmega II	Ωmega III	100.00	per circuit (phono, line, inverter, buffer)
Dyna Pat-4	Any AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	150.00	tone controls \$75 extra if now disconnected
Dyna Pat-5	Any AVA Circuits	Ωmega II	150.00	tone controls \$75 extra if now disconnected
Dyna Pas-5	Any AVA circuits	add black AVA faceplate	75.00	
Dyna Pas-5	Any AVA circuits	add AVA gold jack set	90.00	
Dyna Pat-5	Any AVA circuits	add ceramic selector switch	75.00	
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas, Super Pas Two	Super Pas Three	345.00	includes new signal tubes
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	add Ωmega II Buffers	195.00	output and phono
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	add Ωmega II Buffers	125.00	output only
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	add black AVA faceplate	75.00	
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	add ceramic selector switch	75.00	
Dyna Pas-3	Super Pas Three	add AVA gold jack set	90.00	
Power Amplifiers				
AVA Chassis (any)	Ωmega or Ωmega II	Ωmega III	300.00	
AVA Chassis (any)	Δelta	Ωmega III	500.00	
Hafler (any chassis)	Ωmega or Ωmega II	Ωmega III	300.00	
Hafler (any chassis)	Mos-Fet or Δelta	Ωmega III	500.00	
Dyna St-400, 410, 416	Ωmega or Ωmega II	Ωmega III	300.00	
Dyna St-400, 410, 416	Mos-Fet or Δelta	Ωmega III	600.00	
Dyna St-150	Ωmega or Ωmega II	Ωmega III	300.00	
Dyna St-150	Mos-Fet or Δelta	Ωmega III	400.00	
Dyna St-120	Ωmega or Ωmega II	Ωmega III	300.00	
Dyna St-120	Mos-Fet or Δelta	Ωmega III	400.00	
CD Players				
Any AVA	Fet 3, Δelta, Ωmega	Ωmega II	100.00	see note below
FM Tuners				
DH-130 or DH-330	Fet 3, Δelta, Ωmega	Ωmega II	100.00	

Notes:

All prices are plus return shipping cost. Refer to shipping price chart for shipping prices.

Call us at **612 890-3517** to confirm the status and cost and packing instructions to upgrade your equipment before shipping to us.

Our prices assume that you are sending an AVA wired and working unit not subsequently modified by others.

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.

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.

Used Equipment

Hughes AK-100 Surround Sound Processor with AVA Audio Circuits. This is a like-new unit that we originally supplied to our client, complete with original carton, papers, and all. There is no problem with the processor, only with our client's knees. They have given out so he has to have a unit with remote control (even if it doesn't sound as good). So we are building him a multi-channel buffer to allow the use of multiple amplifiers in his complex system without interaction and are selling the Hughes. We need \$375 for this unit (+\$10 shipping in the USA), which is in near new condition and in perfect working order with our 6 mo. parts and labor warranty. Here is a great way to get high fidelity surround sound without need for any additional speakers, wiring, or amplifiers.

Omega III 170 Power Amplifier in a good Dyna St-120 chassis complete with our new toroid power transformer and all new internal circuits. We got a good deal on a few more Dyna St-120 chassis so you can get our best sounding solid state amp design (and 85 real watts per channel) at just \$545 + \$15 USA shipping with a two year parts and labor warranty on our circuits.

Omega II Pat-4 Preamplifier. Proven and musical AVA solid state circuits installed in a very good used Dyna Pat-4 chassis. You get precision volume and balance controls, useful tone controls, phono and five line level inputs, and great musicality. You pay only for the factory rebuild, \$345. The chassis is thrown in at no extra charge. Hurry, we only have one. Two year warranty on our circuits. Shipping is \$10 in the continental USA.

Super Pas Two Preamplifier. Properly installed AVA kit circuits in a good used Pas chassis complete with a like new AVA silver faceplate and knob set and good working tubes. Includes stepped precision volume and balance controls, selector switch rewired to provide phono and five line level inputs, and outboard heavy duty replacement power transformer. Only \$275 for this honey with a 90 day parts and labor warranty. Add \$10 for shipping in the continental USA.

Omega II Preamplifier in nearly new AVA black anodized chassis complete with head-phone amplifier, RIAA phono circuits, dual tape monitors, and a one year parts and labor warranty. This was our best solid state preamp and now it is available at just \$300 with a one year parts and labor warranty. Or - we will upgrade it to complete new Omega III status for just \$125 extra and up the warranty to two years too. Add \$10 for shipping in the USA.

Versa-Kit Factory Wired Phase Inverter Bridge in attractive charcoal and grey deluxe PFT chassis box. This allows you to run any pair of stereo amplifiers of common ground design in the ultra high power bridged mono mode. It is the only one of these we have ever had available used. The price is \$145 plus \$10 shipping with a one year parts and labor warranty and complete hookup instructions. Don't hesitate on this one.

We Want To Keep You on the Mailing List

If you are a current *Audio Basics* subscriber, we will extend your subscription through the end of 1995 at no charge – unless we hear from you requesting that your name be removed from the list. If your paid subscription extends significantly into 1995, you will be getting a refund from us early next year.

We will add customers to the complimentary mailing list as new purchases are made.

We will also add (within reason) names that you care to recommend to us – and happily reinstate any that we inadvertently overlooked.

Late in 1995 we will re-evaluate how an expanded free mailing is working out as a useful tool for you and us. Hopefully by then we will have heard from you regarding your opinion of *Audio Basics*.

Thanks for your continued interest and patience. There is still lots more to report about in the future – even more this year with any luck at all. You may be the first to know what happens when you look at a wide variety of amplifier designs in depth with a \$16,000 Audio Precision analyzer. We have done it and will tell you about it soon.

Frank and Darlene Van Alstine