

icon Audio

MB 25 Mono Block Power Amplifiers



Shown here without the supplied attractive covers

The ultimate listening experience?

At Icon Audio we pride ourselves on the quality of our amplifiers, but in the case of the MB25s we feel that we have excelled ourselves. At the March '03 Heathrow hi fi show response was so enthusiastic that afterwards people were posting comments on the net and writing to us with their praise.

Sensible people might question how a primitive 1930's power triode, first developed for cinema sound belongs in 21st century 'high end' hi fi. Firstly not all things in hi fi are sensible and secondly anyone who has heard 300B triodes would not ask the question!

The 300Bs are virtually without equal and almost defy description. Even their power is deceptive. Twenty eight watts may not sound a great deal but couple a pair of MB25s with a quality input source and moderately efficient speakers and they are capable of illuminating your listening room with stunning rich musical sounds and uncanny presence. Yet unlike transistor amplifiers, they are completely without any harshness or listening fatigue, despite their ability to reproduce that 'rasp' of trumpets, that 'edge' to strings and inner detail of complex vocals, with real bass power if called for.

The sound is warmer, and more involving than solid-state counterparts. The sweeter treble makes for very easy listening, whether jazz, classical or dance music. The bass is not 'woolly' and is capable of delivering bass power down to 3hz. You can expect to hear a

more detailed three-dimensional soundstage with less confusion in complex passages.

What is our secret?

In order to get the best out of these valves we have provided a generous power supply, DC heating and a large output transformer. We have also opted to use older design double triodes 6SN7 and 6SL7 for the 1st stage and phase splitter to keep an all triode sound.

Pre-Amp

The MB25s are mono-block power amplifiers with a sensitivity of 2v, which will normally mean a pre-amplifier is needed. Almost any good quality unit would be suitable. Our LA3 makes an ideal partner (see separate leaflet). CD only users may find they are able to connect directly and use their CD volume control or a passive unit.

Where can I hear the MB25s?

If you are able to travel to Leicester you are welcome to call at our premises by appointment. Or we may have a dealer in your area.

Or you may audition in your own home for up to 30 days, this enables you to make an informed decision whilst allowing to the amplifier to 'bed in'.

At Icon Audio we are very serious about quality control and customer service. Each amplifier is not only tested but is subject to listening tests for at least 6 hours to ensure that it sounds as good it should.



Construction

At Icon Audio we believe that the build quality adds to listening experience. Therefore the MB 25 is built to a very high standard and is very solid. The chassis is polished stainless steel, chosen for its non-magnetic neutral sonic qualities. The front plate is 10mm solid anodised alloy plate. The output transformer is resin sealed in an enamel crackle finish steel housing. With the oversized power transformer mounted at the rear.

Inside the chassis the valves holders are mounted on a painted steel sub chassis.

The chassis structure is resistant to unwanted vibration. Unlike amplifiers with printed circuit boards, all major components are secured to the chassis.

Note the use of 'Hard Wiring' 'Point to Point' and not printed circuit boards or even tag boards that some of our more expensive competitors use.

This method of high quality construction ensures the shortest signal paths. This has many benefits including low impedance, low capacitance and low inductance. This helps minimise noise and hum also promoting clean sound quality. Nothing gets hot under the chassis and therefore component life is prolonged.

This gives you an amplifier with excellent performance that has superb build quality, is easily upgraded and should last a lifetime.

Input terminals are gold plated, as are the large speaker terminals, which will accommodate the largest of cables as well as banana plugs. 4 & 8 Ohm speaker matching is provided.

Only three audiophile polypropylene capacitors are used in the signal path (one driver and one per 300B). Resistors are oversized 2&5w metal oxide. Our 300B's are the excellent rare Shuguang with solid graphite anodes.

The supplied unique attractive cover is made from stainless steel and high density Perspex. This gives added protection for more vulnerable situations whilst retaining visibility of the valves, and can be removed if desired.

Please note that the reflective surface of the stainless steel chassis and cover appear to take on the colour of their surroundings in the photos, but are in fact neutral in colour.

Is it easy to get replacement valves?

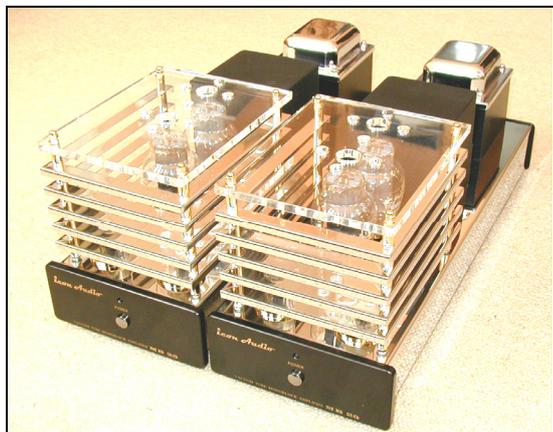
The 300B/6SN7/6SL7 are still in production and available from many sources including us

How often do they need replacing?

With an approximate life of up to 6,000 hours, that would give an average 3hrs a day for 5 years.

Why 'Push Pull' output and not 'Single Ended'?

'Push Pull' is very elegant and efficient method of obtaining a good output from two valves working in opposition, giving the power to drive modern speakers 'Push Pull' also cancels out virtually all the even order harmonic distortion and hum. This also keeps the transformers smaller because they don't get saturated with lots of DC. This is why 'single



ended' amps are expensive large and rarely produce more than about 15 watts. A small amount of feedback assists with purity of the waveform and help protect the output stage.

Upgrade Options

HT Delay timer option £159.95(pr)

Applying the HT voltage (450v on the 300Bs) to valves before the anode has warmed up can cause premature 'cathode stripping' which will reduce both the life of the valve. The old method of using a valve rectifier, which as it warmed up acted as a time delay protected the valves, but are inefficient and expensive.

Our solution is a unique active timer delay, which delays the switch on of the HT until the valves have warmed up, This circuit has no effect on the sonic performance of the amplifier. Once it has switched the HT supply 'on', it is effectively 'out of circuit'. It also allows the 'getter' to keep the vacuum 'hard, and gives some protection against faults.

Valve Upgrade options

The valves that we supply with the MB 25 are of excellent quality, but if required we are able to offer other combinations, e.g. Western Electric. Or we can supply without valves. Please contact for prices and information.

Want to trade in your old equipment?

Ask us for a quote. You should ideally have the instructions and either the original box(s) or be able to pack the equipment suitably for transit. We can uplift direct from your home (usual cost £20.00) and upon confirming the agreed condition of the item will deduct the amount from the sale price

For a limited period we are offering a free upgrade of top quality Matched Electro Harmonix Russian 300Bs Driver Valves by Electro Harmonix & Philips. This dramatically opens up the musical detail, giving an even more 'euphoric' quality.

Worth over £300
AT NO EXTRA CHARGE!

How to order:

Payment by cheque

Send a cheque payable to 'Icon Audio' to our address below. We will then dispatch the amplifier to you as soon as your cheque has cleared.

By Visa/MasterCard/Visa debit card.

Phone us with your card details, and then subject to authorisation checks your amplifier will normally be dispatched to you within 24hrs.

Should you have any queries please contact us by phone, email or letter.

How long does delivery take?

UK delivery is normally completed within a week.

30-Day Trial

Because of the weight of the two boxes (40kg) and subsequent shipping carriage costs involved we regret that the 30 day trial is only available to personal callers.

Conditions

The unit must be returned in new condition in original box and packaging within 30 days of purchase, together with accessories and instructions. We reserve the right to make a handling charge should this not be so..

Specifications and Features

- All hand wired point to point
- No printed circuit board or tag board
- All Triode design
- 2x 300B power triodes
- 1x 6SN7 1st stage valves
- 1x 6SL7 phase splitter valves
- Optional Heater delay to prevent cathode stripping
- 28 Watts RMS per channel
- Signal to noise level -89db
- Freq response 20hz-20khz + or -1db
- Total harmonic distortion 0.2% 1khz
- 4 and 8 ohms output taps
- EI transformers using Japanese Z11 fine grain annealed steel, with low oxygen copper
- Attractive cover included in the price
- Minimal feedback used
- High quality 2&5w metal film resistors
- Blue LED mains indicator
- Polypropylene audio capacitors
- Internal audio wiring using audio grade silver cable
- Valves carefully matched & burnt in
- Ceramic valve holders for minimum leakage
- Centre tapped heater circuit for minimum hum
- Drivers 6.3v heater circuit floated at 60v to minimise heater-cathode leakage
- Polished stainless steel chassis
- 10mm solid aluminium front plate
- Gold plated Input & speaker terminals
- 2v input sensitivity.
- 'Soft Start' for added protection.
- 240volts, 180watts each
- C E certified
- 180W, 230H (330), 530D (590), 20kg (figures in brackets allow for rear connections & ventilation)

(Specifications subject to change. MB25 DIRECT Leaflet, 2003.10.doc

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Test results reproduced from an independent test agency Speedwell Ltd.

This shows the ruler flat frequency response and the low distortion levels achieved at 20 watts.

You will also note that even at 3hz and 70khz, it is only 0.5hz down.

Although the total distortion is generally higher than a transistor amplifier, examination will show that it is mainly the lower orders which are less intrusive. And some believe that give valves their characteristic "warmth".

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Customer: | Icon Audio | Date: 18 June 2003 |
| Equipment: | MB25 | 20 Watt amplifier |

MB25

| Frequency (Hz) | Level (dB) | Frequency (kHz) | Level (dB) |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 3 | -0.3 | 1.0 | 0 |
| 5 | -0.2 | 1.5 | 0 |
| 7 | -0.1 | 2.0 | 0 |
| 10 | -0.1 | 3.0 | 0 |
| 15 | -0.1 | 5.0 | 0 |
| 20 | 0 | 7.0 | 0 |
| 30 | 0 | 10.0 | 0 |
| 50 | 0 | 15.0 | 0 |
| 70 | 0 | 20.0 | 0 |
| 100 | 0 | 30.0 | 0 |
| 150 | 0 | 50.0 | 0 |
| 200 | 0 | 70.0 | -0.5 |
| 300 | 0 | 100.0 | -3 |
| 700 | 0 | 150.0 | -12 |

Frequency response (output level 1W at 1kHz = 0dB)

Harmonic Distortion

| Frequency (kHz) | Harmonic distortion (%) | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | Total |
| 1 | 0.1 | 0.18 | <0.03 | 0.1 | 0.23 |
| 5 | 0.32 | 0.63 | 0.03 | — | 0.71 |

Harmonic distortion (output level 20W)