

# icon Audio

## 10th Anniversary Ltd Edition

### NEW Stereo 40-6AS7

#### 100% Pure Triode

**33+33 Watts RMS\***

**Remote Control**

**Pure Triode**

**Valve Rectifier**

**Tertiary Transformers**

**Tape Monitor**

**Choke Power Supply**

**Standby switch**

**No Feedback\***

**Power Amp Facility**



*designed by David Shaw*

***To Celebrate 10 Years Of Icon Audio We Are Making this Limited Edition Triode Model At a Very Special Price!***

It is ten years since we made our first amplifier the "Stereo 40". Since then we have made many other designs exploring the wonderful world of valves. In this time Icon Audio has gained an enviable reputation for quality, innovation and value. To celebrate this we decided to embody these qualities in an amplifier that is of very high quality, a little bit different and at a very affordable price. A triode amplifier is the obvious choice, but the high cost of the vintage type triodes would make the amplifier expensive, so we cast our net a little bit wider and found a more modern "military" valve that has often been overlooked....

The 6AS7 started life as a triode power regulator in the early 1950's, but it has such excellent audio qualities that it quickly became a "hi fi" valve. Its low voltage and high current means that we can make excellent output transformers, it also is "indirectly heated" giving lower noise and its low price means that re-valving will not be painful to your pocket. Its heater current is a little high but causes no problem. If we were going to design a modern triode, we would be looking for exactly these qualities.

Giving 33+33 Watts Push-pull it makes an amplifier that will drive almost any sensitivity of speaker. Its biggest drawback is its low gain, but again this is no problem using our expertise gained in designing our MB845/805 and 2A3 amplifiers. We used our favourite driver valves the 6SN7 and 6SL7 which are of a similar vintage so are sonically well suited and provide an excellent voltage drive. Our existing Stereo 40 series chassis is ideal, and keeps costs down. We designed special transformers for the 6AS7 output and different power requirements. Our LDT Tertiary Output Transformers\*\* has an extra (third) winding which put simply, allows the output transformer to compare both the input and output, and 'nulls' distortion, thereby dramatically improving the performance, so much so that there is no global feedback (integrated).

We believe our expertly hand wound output transformers to be amongst the finest available.

**A 274B Valve Rectifier** (centre valve) helps to give that inky black silence. The generous **power supply** uses a large "choke" and eight large capacitors in a traditional "Pi" configuration. This gives the required very low source impedance with a huge reserve of power available for large transients. Ripple and hum is very low, with the advantage that it is very resistant to RF noise coming through the mains.

From the first prototype audition we knew this amplifier was something special. Sonically the amplifiers signature is typically warm, very much a triode, being smooth and creamy without being "lush". The dynamics and macro dynamics are exceptionally well detailed and whilst are very well suited to orchestral and Jazz works, but with the ability to give good speed and attack for interpreting rock music. The 6AS7s distortion is mainly 2<sup>nd</sup> harmonic which is cancelled out by the push-pull output stage.

The brand new design is finished with a fine metallic paint work that is easy to clean and is wear resistant. A 10 mm solid alloy front panel with polished dark chrome alloy knobs. And our attractive Plexiglas valve cover to create a stunning visual impression.

On the scales at 25Kg, most of this weight is the higher than normal grade of iron that we use. And our transformers are wound with pure copper (99.9999% pure). As each amplifier is prepared to your order here in Leicester, we can offer a range of upgrades including premium and "new old stock" valves, the superb Jensen "oil in paper" capacitors. (Ask us for a quote).

**Icon Audio is a small company established in 2000. Our speciality is pure valve amplification, loudspeakers and associated equipment. All our equipment is hand built and hard wired. It is our belief that in many ways valve amplifiers are superior for the reproduction of music.**

## Total Peace of mind service!

When you buy an Icon Audio product, you get:

- A UK 220-240v specification product. Designed for use in UK and Europe. (117v by internal adjustment)
- A full 12 months parts & labour guarantee (excluding valves)
- Free telephone or on-line help by our engineers indefinitely
- A comprehensive manual to tell you all you need to know, including how to change and check the performance of valves
- UK service dept with four skilled engineers that know exactly how your amplifier should sound!
- Full back up of spares in stock
- Free valve testing for customers

## What we do:

In Leicester each and every amplifier is carefully checked & tweaked to ensure it performs exactly as specified. Plus any custom modifications added as required before undergoing over 20 rigorous tests in all its important static & dynamic parameters. Each amplifier is run for a minimum eight hours to allow the valves to "bed in". Finally it must pass a listening test by one of our three engineers to ensure performance.

## Specifications and Features

- Comprehensive manual supplied
- Full instructions for valve change included and bias meter
- All hand wired point to point
- No printed circuit or tag board to 'colour' sound
- Blue ALPS volume pot (Japan)
- Class A, all Triode front end
- Output circuit all pure Triode
- 4x 6SA7 precisely matched for best performance
- 1x 6SL7 first stage valve, 2x 6SN7 phase inverter
- 274B valve rectifier for smooth sound
- No global feedback used (integrated operation)
- Standby switch to save valve life and power
- 35 Watts per channel, 33+33W both channels driven
- Signal to noise level -95dB
- Freq response (L) 20Hz - 20kHz +/- 0dB 15W
- Freq response (H) 20Hz - 20kHz +/- 1dB 15W
- Min bass frequency for full power 15Hz
- THD 0.56% (L) 1.3% (H) both @ 15 W
- Suitable for 3 to 16ohm speakers (8 & 4  $\Omega$  taps)
- Damping Factor 5.00
- Supplied with attractive safety guard.
- Audiophile quality metal film resistors (Taiwan)
- Rubicon/Nichicon power caps.
- Purple LED mains indicator
- Choke regulated power supply
- Audiophile SCR/Solen Polypropylene audio caps.
- Optional Jensen Copper foil paper in oil upgrade
- Silver TEFLON audio cable
- 99.9999% pure transformer copper
- High grade long grain transformer iron (Japan)
- Custom hand wound Tertiary output transformers
- Ceramic valve holders for minimum noise/leakage
- Gold plated Input & speaker terminals
- Four line inputs – CD, Tape, Tuner, Aux
- Tape monitor circuit with 'Record Out'
- 280mv input sensitivity (H) Integrated
- 680mv input sensitivity (L) power amplifier
- 230/240volts 180w Min, 250watts max signal.
- 2A AS rear fuse
- CE, ROHSS and WEEE where applicable.
- 390mmW, 390D, 230H, 20kg (a minimum of 30mm height should be added to allow for ventilation)

(Specifications subject to change, errors & omissions excepted. General 03/08/11)

(Next day UK delivery £25, or ask for quote)

## How to buy:

You can buy direct from us or through your dealer. Contact us by email or phone to discuss availability, upgrades etc. You can then pay by credit/debit card or cheque. Your amplifier will normally be dispatched within 7 days by next day service (UK), or you could collect and save the shipping cost.

## Our 30 Day Guarantee of Satisfaction.

If upon testing the amplifier on your own system you are not happy with the amplifier for any reason, Icon Audio will refund the purchase price. (UK customers only, excludes carriage cost conditions apply).

## Conditions

The unit must be returned in new condition in original box and packaging within 30 days of purchase, together with accessories and instructions. A 10% repacking charge will be made. The customer is responsible for safe return carriage and insurance.

## Limited Offer FREE Upgrade

Many amplifiers come with their "own brand" valves. For a limited period we are supplying the ST40-6SA7 with Premium quality Tung Sol 6SL7 and 6SN7 valves. AT NO EXTRA CHARGE, worth over £50.00. This give added definition and warmth. Subject to availability



Shown with supplied cover

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\*RMS Volts do not literally exist, however this figure is derived from 16.25V RMS into 8 Ohms continuous sine wave output

\*\* "Low Distortion Tertiary". A Tertiary (3<sup>rd</sup>) winding is interleaved with the primary and secondary windings. This "balanced" system cancels much of the non linear distortion within the transformer. It is rarely used due to design and production costs. QUAD and McIntosh have previously used variants of this.

Test results were measured on a random selected STD model production model with STD valves not specially selected.

(L)= low sensitivity (H)= high sensitivity