

# *icon Audio*

Instruction Manual Covering:

## ***Stereo 40 MK III all models***



Pictured with SG KT88 valves

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## **1 Introduction**

Thank you for purchasing the *Stereo 40 MKIII*. A great deal of care has been taken in the design, selection of components and production of this amplifier. We are sure that you will hear the difference.

In order to get the best out of your amplifier, please read the enclosed notes. Even if you are experienced with hi fi **please read the 'quick set up guide'**. Should you be uncertain about anything to do with your amplifier please contact us for advice.

Valve (or Tube) amplifiers do the same job as a solid state amplifier, but they do it differently. And whilst solid state specifications look good on paper even quite modest valve amplifiers can have a richer, more textured sound. Your ears will have become accustomed to your old amplifier. Sometimes it may take some hours before your ears attune themselves to the new sound.

Your source, loudspeakers and room acoustics will also affect the sound before it finally reaches your ear. Some people find a small adjustment in re positioning their speakers can help too. The weakest link will always affect the final results when making judgements. Not all recordings are

'equal'! Therefore an amplifier which faithfully reproduces the input signal will also reproduce imperfections in the tonal balance and the recording itself. Setting up and judgements should be made with a 'clean' well balanced recording.

The *Stereo 40 MKIII* is a push-pull Ultralinear stereo power amp, capable of running in either pentode ultralinear or pure triode mode, using the excellent EL34 or KT88\* valves in fixed bias. The driver and phase splitting is all triode. The pre-amp is a high quality 'Passive' circuit using silver audio cable and an ALPS 'blue' volume control. It is sensitive enough to be used with all modern source equipment having an output of 250mv or greater. Its simplicity coupled with point to point wiring hand wiring without the use of printed circuit boards results in an open euphoric sound that is wonderfully detailed and warm sounding.

also covers the SE & 'ie' model, where the tape monitor facility & triode circuit and are omitted. \*This model may be used with either EL34/6CA7/KT77/KT66/KT88/6550

## **2 Final Inspection - Your Guarantee of Quality**

*To assure you of optimum performance and reliability, this amplifier has passed our rigorous final inspection and listening test by the Icon Audio team in Leicester . During which the final set up and adjustments were made.*

Date ...../...../.....

Model .....

Amp Serial Number .....

Customer .....

Check amplifier finish .....

Soft Start Fitted .....

Internal wiring check .....

Sales invoice .....

Check Triode mode .....

Bottom label .....

Run min 6 hour test .....

Credit card receipt .....

Check inputs & tape monitor .....

Customer survey form .....

Output Valve Bias level .....mv

Bias meter .....

Sound Quality .....

Transformer Protection .....

Channel Balance .....

### **Upgrades:**

Valve Microphony .....

HT delay fitted? ...Y / N

Valve Seating .....

Output valves .....

Hum level left/right ...../.....mv

1<sup>st</sup> Stage valve .....

RF Test .....

Phase splitter valve .....

LED brightness .....

Capacitor grade (Audio) .....

Serial No sticker and recorded .....

Mains lead .....

Mains voltage 110 / 230-240V

Interconnects .....

IEC Mains Fuse .....A

Signed off by .....

Notes:

Please note we do not test the standard mains lead.

# **IMPORTANT READ THIS FIRST**

## **2 QUICK SET UP GUIDE**

### **Box contents:**

**Amplifier, remote control, mains lead, manual, bias meter.**

**1 Unpack unit carefully** and check that it is in good condition. Transit damage must be reported to Icon Audio within 3 days. It is important that you keep packaging for warranty/service return.

**2 If Necessary fit the valves, or check that they are firmly in place.** The KT88/EL34s should be fitted first observing the numbers 1,2,3,4 on the rear of the valve; this corresponds with the four sockets from left to right viewed from the front. This is essential as each valve is 'set up' in this position. **Do not push or pull the output valves by the glass envelope**, this could cause the glass envelope to become detached from the base, damaging the valve.

The small valves are normally numbered 1, 2, 3 and should be gently pushed into place. The middle one is a 6SL7, the outside pair are 6SN7.

**Please note the 6SN7/6SL7s are not interchangeable with the KT88/EL34 this could be dangerous and will damage the amplifier.**

**3 Connect to source units**, e.g. CD, Tuner, Tape, Phono pre amp (if used) etc via appropriate phono sockets.

**4 Connect to speakers** making sure that the correct impedance (ohms) is chosen, (see back of speakers). Most modern speakers are 6 ohms which so this is not critical (see Ch 3). Don't forget to get the correct polarity of speaker cables. (See speaker connections chapter). If 'bi-wiring' both 'common' should go to the black terminal, and both 'positive' (or red) should go to either 4 or 8 ohm terminals.

**5 Connect to mains** supply using supplied IEC mains lead to 240v supply. **If for some reason the welded plug must be removed, please remove fuse and dispose of immediately.** (As they can be a danger to children if plugged in). The replacement plug should be wired in the following way Brown to Live terminal, Blue to Neutral terminal and Green/Yellow to Earth.

**6A Put the STANDBY switch in the "down" position.**

**6B SWITCH ON!** The blue mains indicator should light up and the valves will take approximately 60 seconds to start working. All valves should have a visible orange glow from the cathode heaters.

**6C The Volume** control will "re-set" on switch on to approx "9pm" position. There should be no sound coming from the speakers except a barely discernable gentle hum. If there are any unpleasant sounds coming from the speakers,

switch off and refer to the 'Trouble Shooting' section or contact Icon Audio.

The 274B valve rectifier acts as a HT delay on switch on. If you do not intend to use the amplifier for a few hours you can switch put into "standby", when it will use minimal power and be ready for use "instantly". In standby you may hear low distorted sound from the speakers if you have a source playing. This is normal, reduce the volume during this time.

**7 Your unit should now be functioning.** If not check wiring again and/Use selector/tape monitor/volume to choose source program and suitable listening volume. Do not operate at a high volume for the first five minutes to allow the valves to warm up properly.

**8, Remote Control.** If the batteries are OK (2x AAA) the blue LED should light when any of the keys are pressed. A little skill is needed in pointing and pressing, as the unit has a motorised "pot" which may not be as responsive as you TV.

### **Please note all these things are normal for valve amplifiers:**

A, Valves can get very hot, BEWARE!

B, The transformer cover will get quite warm

C, The amplifier may smell slightly for a few weeks.

D, Mobile phone 'breakthrough' is normal.

E, Valves may make a 'tinkling' sound when warming up and cooling down.

F, The volume control may sometimes appear to sound 'Scratchy', this is not a fault!

G, Valves occasionally "Pop" or "Crackle". If this is regular problem it could be your CH boiler/cooker/fridge etc. (see trouble shooting).

**8 Health and Safety.** The valves when operating have high surface temperatures. Keep out of reach of children and pets. The use of the supplied guard is recommended in these circumstances. Always unplug when making adjustments. **Like all amplifiers there are potentially lethal high voltages inside (over 400v DC), which when switched off can take twenty minutes to discharge!** Do not remove bottom panel unless you are a competent engineer. There are no user serviceable parts inside. **Like other household electrical appliances do not leave unattended whilst switched on.** Do not adjust the output valve grid bias pre sets without reference to the manual. Incorrect adjustment could cause the valves to overheat, with resulting in damage to valves and amplifier.

**To maintain the best performance of the amplifier you should check the bias of the output valves from time to time (say twice a year). Full details will be found in section 7.**

## 3 Connecting inputs & outputs

Many problems associated with electronic equipment involves connecting leads, which are usually either **'BAD CONNECTION'** or a **'WRONG CONNECTION'**. So it's worth making sure that you have good connections and that your leads are the right way round.

### Inputs

The amplifier will work with any standard piece of hi fi e.g. CD, Tuner, Tape Deck, Mini Disc, TV, Video Recorder, DVD etc having an output of 250mv or more, to get full power.

If you wish to use a turntable you will need a suitable phono pre-amp. Icon Audio or your dealer can advise you. Our new all valve phono stage is an ideal partner.

**To use as a power amplifier.** In this mode of operation it is suggested that the volume control be fully clockwise, and volume be controlled on the pre-amplifier for best results. The tape input will provide the most direct signal path. Good quality leads should be used, making sure that you have good connections both ends. If you have to much gain Icon Audio can modify to suit your requirements.

### Connecting a tape deck/Recorder/Equaliser

The STEREO 40 will work with any tape deck having suitable output, and it is possible to record from any connected source using the terminals marked 'Pre-out'. The STEREO 40 has a 'Tape Monitor' facility, which enables you to use a 'three head deck' or an equalizer.

Some tape decks 'Present a load' to the amplifier terminals, even when not in use, which can affect sound quality. (You can do an audible check for this by removing the plugs and listening for a change). Therefore for best results do not leave anything connected to "Rec out" unnecessarily.

### Connecting loudspeakers

It is important to use good quality loudspeaker cable. This should be relatively thick and multi-stranded. i.e. QED 'Original' or better. Take care to connect the correct polarity. The use of 'Banana plugs' or 'spade' connections will ensure a good connection whilst minimising the risk of 'shorts'.

In our experience valve amplifiers are more tolerant of cables, therefore the benefits of very 'exotic' cables may be wasted! But this is personal taste. Icon or your dealer will advise you.

As all cables have losses, keeping the speaker cables short is best. It may be better and be cheaper to re-arrange your room and use shorter cables than to spend a fortune on longer cables!

You can either 'hard wire' your cable to the amplifier by baring enough cable to fit in the connector and twist together to avoid any spare strands touching anywhere else (soldering the stands together helps). **Be warned this amplifier does not have an output protection device, which would degrade the sound. So a prolonged short due to strands of wire touching could damage the valves.** Alternatively use good quality 'banana' plugs, once fitted they are trouble free.

**Speaker polarity.** It is essential that you observe the polarity of the terminals; they must be the same for the left/right connections at the amplifier end and at the loudspeaker end. Otherwise the sound will be 'out of phase' with the sound stage 'inside out' with reduced bass. **If you are unable to check this or confirm the polarity** (e.g. if you have 'built in' wiring), try the following; Connect the system up and play some music with plenty of bass (e.g. dance music), preferably in mono (FM tuners are usually switchable to mono) and stand the speakers close together. If correct you should hear plenty of bass, if not **reverse the terminals for one channel only, either at the amp or speaker.** You will now hear more, or less bass. The higher bass output is the correct setting to use. Another alternative is to use a test disc. If you are 'bi-wiring' your speakers only two terminals, you must use only 4 or 8 ohms, not both, as this will not load the amplifier properly.

The STEREO 40 is designed to work with full range, medium to high efficiency having impedance of 4 ohms to 8 ohms. Speakers having efficiency of lower than 86db will have greater difficulty in providing a high sound level. But this will also depend upon individual speakers, room size, type of music and positioning etc.

**Speaker impedance.** It is important to use the correct speaker impedance terminals, as this will give the best sound quality and power matching. If using 15-ohm speakers use the 8-ohm connections. If you are unsure or "6 ohms" or "4 to 8 ohms" is quoted; a rule of thumb guide is to try both positions. The loudest being the best match. Although your personal taste should be the final deciding factor.

Do not connect to more than one pair of terminals for each channel. If two pairs of speakers are required to be connected, they must both be 8-ohm and connected 4 ohm terminals. Contact Icon Audio for more information. Damage could be occur if care is not taken.

## 4 How to get the best out of your amplifier

- Do not leave the amplifier switched on all the time. This is not necessary
- Do not switch off and on without a short rest of 60 seconds (to reset the 'soft start')
- Do not adjust the output valve grid bias unless you know how
- Do not switch from Ultralinear to Triode without switching to Standby or switching off
- Do not operate the amplifier without loudspeakers connected
- Do not use valves other than listed as there could be danger of shock or overheating
- Remember to check the bias about twice a year for best performance.
- Make sure the speakers are in phase.
- Use the best possible source material.
- Use efficient, well-designed speakers.

### What is safe maximum volume?

The Stereo 40 MKIII will run happily all day long at maximum power; the valves are not stressed any more at full power than at zero volume. Running into gross distortion will however stress the whole amplifier. To find the maximum safe volume, play full range music and advance the volume until distortion occurs, (this is normally between 12 and 3 o'clock on the volume control) back off the volume control about 30 degrees, this is approximately full music power. However this position will vary according to the level and type of music and the output of the source unit. For example CD players tend to be higher than say tuners or phono stages.

**Triode Switch.** This switch causes the KT88/EL34s to operate as Triode valves. **As switching can stress the output transformers we would recommend that switching be done when the amplifier is in "Standby".**

The majority of listeners prefer the "triode" sound believing it to be more pleasant to listen to, but the power will drop to about 50%. As the gain in triode is nearly the same the volume will be the same. But at higher volumes you may hear some distortion, in which case switch to ULTRALINEAR.

### Leaving the amplifier switched on

Do not leave the amplifier switched on 24/7. Your valves will be worn out in approximately nine months! Whilst the amplifier will sound at its best when it is properly warmed up, there is no advantage leaving it switched on when it is not in use. See (Standby Switch). **We would always advise that any item of home electronics is switched off when not in use**

### Standby Switch

If the amplifier is not needed for a few hours, it can be left in the "standby" state. This enables the valves to be fully warmed and ready to use the instant you put the standby switch down. In the "standby" position the amplifier is only using about 50% of normal power. It also enables a healthy cloud of electrons to build up around the hot cathode. Also it allows the silver "getter" inside the valve to "mop up" any gas that has built up inside and therefore keep the vacuum "hard" for best performance. There is no benefit to leaving the ST40 on standby indefinitely. If not in use switch off!

### 'Burning in'

**Although the amp should sound good within about 10 mins it can take up to an hour to sound at its best and will take several months of regular use before it is fully 'run in'.**

### Upgrading Valves!

Good quality new valves sound better, have good performance and reliability. The upgrade valves supplied with selected models are the result of careful comparison with other makes. But beware paying excessive amounts for "New Old Stock", second hand or "Fake", valves,

### Cabinet Care

To remove dust we suggest gentle brushing of the polished stainless steel cabinet with a soft paintbrush. Other marks can usually be removed with a damp cloth. The Perspex valve cover may need a gentle wipe with soapy water and drying with a duster. On no account use anything wet on the amplifier, and always clean with the power disconnected.

## 5 Trouble Shooting

### Amplifier Dead

Check the 1.6 amp mains fuse at the back of the amplifier. To gain access, remove the mains lead. The fuse is in a small plastic drawer, which forms part of the socket assembly. To open insert a flat bade screwdriver or similar and prise open. **The fuse in use is the innermost** the outer is a spare. Should the replacement fuse also blow there is a fault. Replacements should be 1.6 Amp 'anti-surge'. Available from Icon Audio free.

The fuse in the plug should be a 3 or 5 amp fuse, although unlikely, this should be checked if the amplifier fuse is OK.

### No sound

Have you selected the right input? Are the connections OK? Is everything switched on? Are the speakers connected?

### Distorted sound.

Try another source; if sound improves then it's probably something wrong with the first source. If no improvement try different speakers, if no improvement could be an amplifier problem.

### Hum Problems

If you experience hum, try disconnecting all inputs, if hum persists this is probably an amplifier fault.

If not, identify which input is causing hum. Connect one input at a time. A common cause is a 'hum loop' caused by having too many earths, and may be



identified by unplugging each input source from the mains. One remedy for this is to use an interconnect which only has the screen connected at one end. Other causes of low-level hum can be from adjacent equipment, so experiment with moving equipment around to see if this makes the hum better or worse.

### Interference Problems

The amplifier design incorporates features and devices which make it resistant to mains-born interference. But some CH boilers/fridges/cookers etc can generate RF (radio frequency) interference which travels through the air (and walls). Although rare this can be very irritating. In this case a simple capacitor is often all that is needed to effect a permanent cure (ask us).

### One channel missing.

Usually 'bad' connection on either the input or the speakers. Try swapping the connection over to establish if the cause is:

- (a) Input to the amp. Sound will move to the other channel.
- (b) Amplifier or speakers. Sound will not move.

Strange noises coming from speakers:

Turn volume to minimum on unused input, if problem corrected either fault with source unit or with connection. If noise persists, problem with amplifier.

If a whole output valve glows red (other than the heater), often accompanied by a hum through the speakers, switch off immediately, and refer to Icon Audio or a service engineer, as this could be valve failure.

A valve that is lit up is not a guarantee that it is working properly; conversely a valve that is not lit up will not be working (usually cold to the touch).

### Valve Replacement (see also section 7)

Valve life will depend upon such things as hours of use and number of on/off cycles. Do not switch on and off unnecessarily (see **Standby**). Also it is not good practice to remove the valves unnecessarily as this can strain the pins and cause tiny air leaks.

**Service:** Should you suspect a problem, you could return the unit to Icon Audio for a periodic service or return the valves for testing free of charge. You should carefully remove the valves (the KT88/EL34s should be held by the base when removing, to prevent damage) numbering them with a marker from left to right as you do so in order that that may be replaced in the same position. They should be well packed in cardboard & foam or similar, and returned to Icon Audio for testing. (Valves are very rugged if packed properly).

### Mains Supply

This amplifier is hard wired to work on 230/240v ac. The transformer may easily be re-configured for 110/120v ac. Contact for more information.

## 6. Bias Checking & Adjustment

If you are unsure about any aspect of bias contact your retailer, Icon Audio or a competent service engineer.

**The Stereo 40 MKIII uses the 'Fixed bias' method of valve operation. This has the advantage of higher power, lower feedback and cooler running. However we recommend that once or twice a year you check the bias reading using the supplied meter to ensure best performance from the amplifier.** This is a safe procedure which involves measuring less than 0.5 volt in the four sockets next to each KT88/EL34 and adjusting if necessary.

1, Tools you will need: The supplied meter or one set to measure approx more than 2 or 3 volts DC, and a small flat blade screwdriver. Adjustments are done at zero volume with speakers connected. Run the amp for at least 15mins (if it is working correctly). Otherwise do a rough adjustment and check later when the ST40 is hot.

The Icon meter reads in mv (millivolt=1v/1000). So will read ".400" EL34 or ".450" KT88.

2, Connect: the black probe to the chassis 'earth' by unscrewing the '0' speaker terminal and tightening the probe in the exposed hole. And the other in the test socket adjacent to the valve on test. Set the 'Icon' meter to 2000mv (2v) or the 'black mark'. See pics.



Making the 'earth' connection.

3, Checking: You should get a reading of 400mv EL34, 450mv KT88 if valve is conducting correctly. But bear in mind that your mains voltage fluctuations can affect your readings up to 10% Check all valves, they should be within about 20% of the ideal voltage.

4, Adjusting: If the reading is incorrect, set this by using the bias adjuster in the centre, **NOTE: There is only one adjuster for all four valves.** They are very sensitive so adjust very carefully; use tiny turns of the screw. If the reading appears a little unstable this is normally due to mains fluctuations.

5, If one or more valves are showing erratic readings or you cannot set the correct voltage, then that valve is probably faulty or out of specification. If you are unable to set the reading high enough this means the emission of the valve is low.



Showing a probe reading 1<sup>st</sup> output valve

## Replacing the KT88/EL34 Valves

**Important: Do not attempt to change the KT88/EL34 without reading these notes. Failure to do so could be both dangerous and damaging to the amplifier.**

**When replacing valves, it is essential that you use a "matched quad".**

**Health & safety:** High voltages are present inside the amplifier and on exposed valve sockets when valves are removed, so take suitable care. It is not necessary to remove the bottom cover. Beware valves get hot in operation!

**5, Changing valves:** You should if possible check the bias setting before you attempt to change the valve(s), in order to familiarise your self with the procedure.

The safe way is to change and check one or two valves at a time. Remove the first old valve and fit the replacement. Switch on and measure bias, you should be setting the reading for each valve to about 350mv (0., Do not allow the reading to go above -800mv. Don't worry how low the reading goes this will not cause damage. Continue in the same way and fit all four valves. Do final adjustment when the amplifier is fully warmed up.

If all is well there should be no more than a barely detectable hum from the speakers, and the amplifier should sound OK When tested.

**6,** If you cannot set up the 400/450mv then the valve is probably faulty or is unsuitable.

If the valves are brand new, you will need to check again after approximately 10 & 100 hours, after that only occasionally or if you suspect a problem.

**NOTE: If you are changing to a different type of valve, be ready to change the bias quickly, as the setting from say KT88 to EL34 may be quite large.**

**7, To avoid damage to the amplifier and electric shock hazard you must use only valves marked KT88/EL34 (or 6550), 6SL7, 6SN7 Or that you know to be direct equivalents.** Use only valves which you know to be new or good condition and test the amplifier thoroughly before resuming normal use.

### 8, Replacing the small valves:

**6SL7 (centre) and 6SN7 valves.** Neither of these requires any set up procedure. It's just 'plug and play', although care should be taken when removing and inserting not to break the centre spigot. (These valves are similar with the same pin connection; accidental wrong insertion would not cause damage).

Icon Audio are happy to check the valves/amp or your re-bias your amp free of charge.

**9, 274B Rectifier.** This should normally last longer than the audio valves. Replacements may be obtained from Icon Audio. Alternative valves to use are GZ34, 5AR4, GU5.

**\*RMS watts** Do not literally exist! But this figure is based upon the RMS voltage output ( $V^2/R$ ).

**\*Push Pull** is a very elegant way of virtually cancelling out non linear distortion, noise and hum. Whilst dramatically increasing the power and damping factor. In Class AB about 1/4 of the output is pure class A. Unlike transistor designs there is NO crossover distortion before the amplifier reaches full output.

**\*Ultralinear** (or Distributed Load). This is a true "win-win" output stage design. Having virtually the all the characteristics and low distortion of pure Triode valves, whilst keeping 90% of the power of pure Pentodes types.

**\*The Leak Stereo 20** (& 50/60) series used a single ECC83 triode first stage coupled to an ECC83 double triode "long tailed pair" phase splitter. Originally developed by A D Blumlein in the 1930's. This design was also widely used by GEC, Mullard, Sugden etc. However the "TL+" series used an EF86 Pentode, now widely regarded as having an inferior sound).

**\*Power output** level will vary from 25 watts (6L6) up to 45 watts (KT88) depending upon the output valve type.

## 7 Specification & Features

(Typical conditions @ 240v 50Hz)

- KT88/EL34 output valves or eqv (6550)
- 6SL7 double triodes for first stage
- 6SN7 double triodes phase-splitter
- 274B full wave rectifier
- No feedback used
- Custom hand wound transformers with Tertiary winding.
- Hand wired point to point components
- No printed circuit board
- No tag board
- Ceramic valve bases for low noise/leakage
- HT delay circuit to protect cathodes (optional)
- 40w RMS per channel Ultralinear
- 20w RMS per channel Triode mode
- Signal to noise level -90db
- Freq response better than 20-20kHz +0-1db
- Power bandwidth 10hz-30khz
- 0.15% THD at full output
- 4 and 8 ohms output taps
- Valve rectifier
- Choke regulated power supply
- Supplied with attractive safety guard
- Audiophile quality metal film resistors
- Audiophile quality polypropylene audio caps
- Japanese 'Blue' ALPS volume pot.
- Rubicon/Nichichron power caps.
- Internal wiring using Teflon silver cable
- Valves carefully matched for best performance
- Gold plated Input & speaker terminals
- Inputs for CD, Tape, Tuner, Aux
- Tape monitor
- 250mv sensitivity for full output
- 230/240volts, 76w SB, 140w Min, 240watts max
- 1.6 amp AS rear fuse (with spare)
- 390W, 210H, 410D Amp overall 25kg
- Carton= 34x51x49cm 28kg packed
- IEC mains lead, (5amp fused)
- Conforms to CE ROHS and WEEE where applicable

Specification subject to change without notice.

Thank you for purchasing one of our amplifiers. We hope you will be pleased with it.

All units are individually tested for performance for at least six hours before despatch to you. In the unlikely event that you believe the unit is not functioning correctly, it may be helpful to contact us first as we may be able to assist you. Then we would request that you return the item to us for further action.

You are advised to inform us of any change of address in order that we may keep you up to date of any upgrades or improvements. Check our website.

### Exclusions

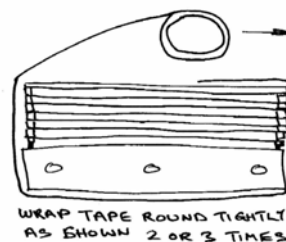
Claims for any damage to either amplifiers or valves must be reported within three days of receipt.

This amplifier is designed for normal domestic hi fi use. It is not guaranteed for commercial, Public Address use, or use in other situations. The guarantee becomes void if the unit has been modified in any way not approved by Icon Audio.

## 8 Packing Instructions

It is essential that the original box and packing be kept in good condition, as this provides vital protection during transit. Please do not write on box, but use removable labels. If returning for service do not send the cover, as this is easily damaged. If you are sending the cover place the

amplifier in a plastic bag and wrap packing tape around the amplifier as shown in order to "clamp" the cover down firmly. This minimises damage if the amplifier is not kept upright.



- Re-use the supplied plastic bag to keep the amp clean and free from damp.
- The mains lead fits in a foam cut-out underneath the amplifier.
- **Insert the piece of cardboard between the transformer cover and the valve guard; this will prevent the valve guard scratching the transformer paintwork.**
- Valves should be removed, numbered and packed in "bubblewrap" or similar for protection inside the valve cover.
- If the amplifier is stored in the box, keep upright.

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0107 V Gen Pr 25/06/2010