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By Scot Markwell

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NAT Se3 Single-Ended Monoblock Amplifiers



NAT of Yugoslavia recently introduced its approximately \$15,000/pair state-of-the-art power amplifiers. The Se3 SET amplifiers have several special features. This is a zero feedback direct-heated triode monoblock power amplifier. Its output stage employs three VT-4-C power tubes connected in parallel for 75 wpc of Class-A SET power into 4 or 8 ohms.

This amplifier can drive virtually any kind of speaker. Its beefy output stage brings more power to the cathode-coupled output transformer, which increases the amplifier's damping factor to 50 (standard damping factor of other standard construction is from 3 to 5), which allows much better power control of speakers' various

impedance curves. The driver section uses two 6N1P-EV and one VT-4-C tubes. The hand-wound output transformers made by NAT were specially designed for this power amplifier.

Each monoblock amplifier is carefully handcrafted with solid component parts (Caddock power resistors, Wima polypropylene high-voltage capacitors, WBT input & output connectors, military grade driver & output vacuum tubes with long-life operation). Special care has been taken in designing a high-voltage (+1300 VDC & -1300 VDC) zero-feedback, high-speed-voltage regulator that uses latest generation transistors. This regulator is based on the same concept as the power amplifier circuit (zero feedback) and they make a perfect match together. See the Se3 and other NAT products at: <http://www.nataudio.com>.

Manley Labs Neo-Classic 300B Linestage Preamp/Headphone Amp

Manley Labs' most esoteric product has to be its 300B preamplifier—the only preamp to feature these classic tubes. Manley Labs has been designing the 300B into small power amps for many years and has always had great respect for the smooth natural sound of this tube. However, a single 300B provides truly appropriate power and voltage swing for headphones and makes a remarkable line driver, as well.

In a preamp, the impedances are not too low and the power requirements are not too high: ideal for this kind of tube in a single-ended configuration, thus the genesis of a new preamp.

Manley combined the historic 300B with another classic tube, the large octal-based 6SL7GT, for the input stage: all triodes running in pure Class A operation. To complement this retro design, Manley implemented vacuum tube rectification (two 5AR4s) and regulation (two OD3s) in the power supply along with plenty of capacity. There is also a great headphone amp built in. It all adds up to a classic!

Manley Labs is discontinuing the gold faceplates and returning to its classic and elegant "Manley-Blue" pewter grey ; the chassis is being reworked to comply with a few updates.

The \$5,250 300B preamp and other Manley Labs gear may be seen at:

www.manleylabs.com.



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Egglestonworks Andra II Loudspeakers

The original Eggleston Andra speaker system not only won *Stereophile's* "Speaker of the Year" in 1997, it also created a new awareness that music-reproduction systems have to be engineered with "emotion" as a design target, not just "hard" specifications.

In the past few years, the company has gone through some changes. It is now back making speakers once again, among them the Andra II.

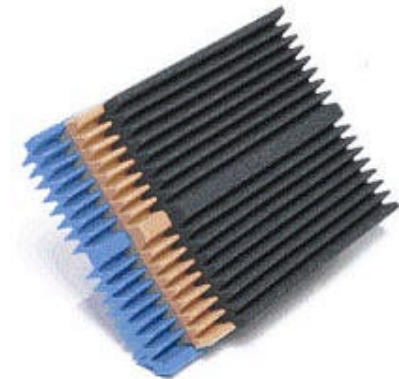
Many of the sonic advances pioneered by Egglestonworks' top-of-the-line Savoy speaker system's sophisticated engineering were used in the Andra II, including more accurate amplitude response, deeper bass, and higher efficiency. Above all, the transparency of the Andra was improved by using extremely high-quality drivers in their optimum range instead of running them full range as in the previous design. This is supposed to bring about an increase in clarity that comes from the optimized integration of the drivers.

The target listening window has been opened into a wide dispersion pattern, including the vertical dimension, in order to balance the room's reverberant response to the direct axial response. Egglestonworks believes it has achieved in the Andra II a world-class reference in timbre, image focus, impact, and overall realism.

See the \$18,900 Andra II and all the other Egglestonworks products at: www.egglestonworks.com.



Acoustics First Sound Control Wall Treatment



Acoustics First Corporation offers a full range of acoustical materials including sound absorbers, barriers, diffusers, and specialty products. These are used in studios for recording, broadcast, and multi-media production, entertainment centers including Karaoke, and home theaters and critical listening rooms; architectural applications include auditoriums, churches, concert halls, gymnasiums, theaters, educational and communication functions, and numerous industrial noise-control applications.

In the late 1970s, Alpha Audio Acoustics introduced Sonex anechoic wedge foam to the professional audio community as an instant solution to a common acoustical problem, that of "talking" or "shouting" walls and ceilings in control rooms caused by hard-sounding reflections. Acoustics First Corporation was formed in 1997 by one of the founders of Alpha Audio to bring such innovative products to an even broader market. The designers freely share their knowledge and experience acquired with end users to help them choose the best materials for a particular application. They will also supply the names of qualified acoustical consultants and installers.

Acoustics First supplies such products as traditional polyurethane foams, Class 1 Melamine foams, high-density fiberglass panels covered in Guilford of Maine's FR701 fabric, high NRC wall fabrics, dense mass barrier materials, diffusers in wood, metal, or formed plastic, prefabricated low-frequency bass traps, sculptured ceiling tiles, decoupling devices, air-duct silencers, and other specialty items. Brands include Sonex, FireFlex, FabTec, Soundtex, Channels, RPG, Sound Seal, SDG, TubeTrap and a variety of private labels.

Prices vary, so go to <http://www.acousticsfirst.com> for a look at the products and to get contact information.

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Emotive Audio Erato and Sira Linestage Vacuum Tube Preamplifiers

Emotive Audio is a small US manufacturer of high-quality tube audio components, designed around the concept that a good stereo system should do more than just play music; it should transport you to the musical event. Each of our products is individually hand made and tested to ensure optimal performance. They manufacture two innovative linestages, the Erato and the Sira, each of which share an open architecture with the tubes exposed on the top of the chassis.



The \$4,250 Erato's audio circuitry

incorporates only two stages per channel. In the first stage, a type 27 triode vacuum tube serves as an input amplifier. This stage is direct coupled to one half of a 6BL7GT twin triode—a very linear output cathode follower designed to easily handle commonly used cable lengths and moderate load impedance. All in all, the Erato's basic audio circuitry is not unlike that of many other preamplifiers, yet, its performance is unlike any other.

The more upscale \$9,000 Sira is an all tube preamp design built around the excellent type 5687 twin triode. It incorporates tube current sources for the plate and cathode follower circuits of each channel, and uses vacuum tube rectification and separate regulation for each channel. In all, the Sira has 18 tubes: yet, as with all of our designs, the audio circuitry is extremely simple.

There is a Sira in-house at Sea Cliff for review.

See all of the Emotive components at: <http://www.emotiveaudio.com>.



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