

OWNER'S MANUAL



Step Into the Music

Aficionado

Headphone / Speaker Vacuum Tube Amplifier



For people who know what the f*** they want
and what the f*** they are doing

AFICIONADO

Congratulations on your purchase of the Eddie Current Aficionado vacuum tube headphone/ speaker amplifier amp. The amp's unique audio circuit, combined with a passive CLCLC filter power supply delivers the Holy Grail of a high fidelity experience, delivering a sound stage designed specifically to maximize the 2A3 electron cloud. On a quest to bring back classic tube-driven audio, the Aficionado is cap coupled through an old school Russian military toxic oil, paper, and aluminum foil capacitor. Output transformers are machine wound by CineMag Inc. The end result is an updated modern version of classic American audio design!

SHIPPING CHECK

The Aficionado is shipped in 2 boxes, one for the main amp and one for the power supply. Upon receiving both boxes, check for shipping damage by: 1) Gently rocking the amplifier back and forth listening for anything that may have come loose in shipping. 2) Making sure all the screws are tight. If you feel something was loosened in shipping, please contact Eddie Current for further instructions. Most issues can be easily corrected.

PREPARING THE AMP

Your amplifier has been set to run on the requested voltage. Before setting up the amp, check to see if your line voltage agrees with the box checked on the power supply rear. If not, contact Eddie Current before continuing. The power supply umbilical cord is attached at the power supply end. Place the power supply at least six inches from the amp. Plug the umbilical cord into the power plug on the amplifier rear panel. Line up the umbilical cord connector notch with the chassis mount male connector key at 12 o'clock. Be sure to insert the connector holding the metal connector end, and not the cord, this is even more important removing the cord. Do not pull off using the cord.

TUBE INSERTION

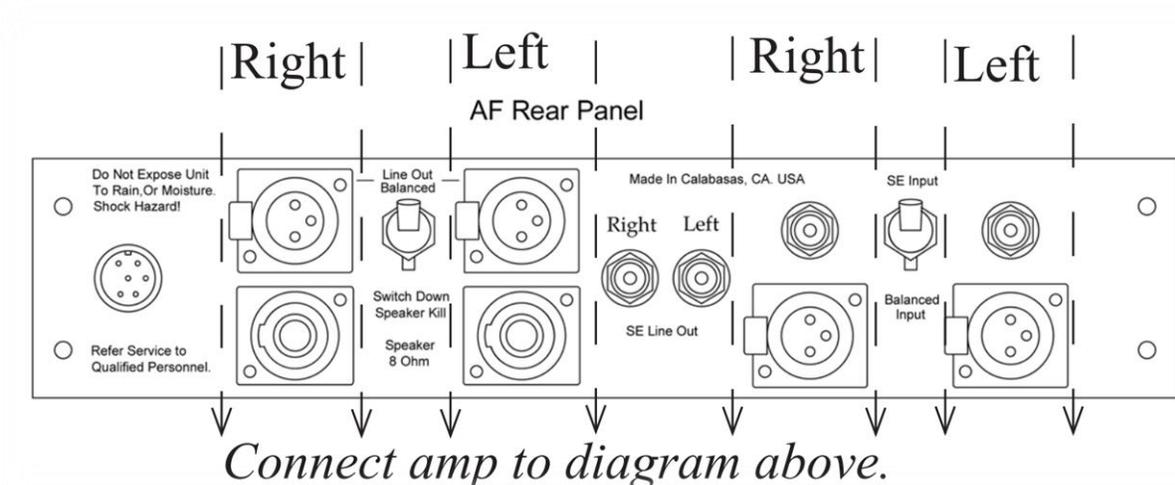
Insert the tubes with the one 5AR4 rectifier tube going in top the power supply socket, the one 6N3P tube into the front main amp socket and your two 2A3 tubes in the main amp matching sockets. Your 2A3 tubes should have two large and two small pins; the large pins face the rear. Be sure to align them to plug in correctly.

Please note if you are using the 2A3B Shuguang there is usually solder residue on the pins which can be *gently* sanded down for better insertion. However, even if the pins are not fully inserted, they will still make sufficient contact as-is. Once tubes are properly inserted, you may plug in the power cord.

Important! Do not turn the power supply on unless all tubes are in their proper location, and the umbilical cord is connected. Once the amp is turned on, you may hear a low level shimmering sound from the output tubes for about 10 seconds. This is normal, and varies with tube manufactures. It takes about five minutes for the amplifier to completely warm up, and sound its best. You're ready to listen! Should you have any problems with the process contact me at cuthus@charter.net.

OPERATION

Please refer to diagram below:



Select the source by rear panel switch. All outputs on the back (and the headphone output) are simultaneously active unless the speaker kill switch is active. The speaker kill switch only disconnects output to the speakers.

HEADPHONE LISTENING

If you are using headphones, the amp only accepts 4-pin balanced male connectors. A 4-pin XLR to ¼" phono adapter can be constructed by shorting pins 2 and 4 of the XLR into common for the phono jack.



Such an adapter will cause damage if used on other balanced amplifiers with two amplifiers per channel running a differential signal!

SPEAKER LISTENING

If you want to drive speakers you will need a pair of Neutrik NL2FX Speak-Ons. (The Neutrix can be ordered at Mouser Electronics located in most countries; part # 568-NL2FX). When hooking up speaker wire loosen the 2 screws almost all the way out, insert wire and tighten screws. When connecting speaker wire to the Neutrik Speak-On, first disassemble the connector. Looking at the rear of the connector there are two screw terminals where the speaker wire is attached. The right screw terminal is speaker positive. Insert connector with release tab at 8:00. Twist clockwise it will lock into position at 9:00. To remove press thumb tab backwards and twist counter clockwise. You can also refer to the Neutrix website for additional help if needed.

TUBE COMPLIANCE

The tubes for the Aficionado are one 5AR4 rectifier tube, one 6N3P tube and two 2A3 tubes. The 5AR4 tube may be substituted with the 5Y3 or 5R4 rectifier tubes, but no other tubes are recommended. The 5AR4 is recommended as it has the least voltage drop among compatible tubes.

The 6N3P may be substituted with the 2C51, 5670, 6854, 398A. No other tubes are recommended. There are many different 2A3 tubes available. If you wish to change tubes, disconnect the power. Be extremely careful when inserting in the new tubes.

Make sure the pins are straight and you push the tubes in correctly - it's easy to bend a pin and the tube will not insert. If wrong type tubes damage the amp, the repair is not covered under the warranty.

EDDIE CURRENT WARRANTY

The aficionado comes with a one year warranty for parts and labor. Warranty does not include shipping costs. Warranties are not transferable under any conditions. If the repair is due to customer damage or tubes not supplied by Eddie Current, repairs will be charged parts and labor and will be quoted before work is performed. Your purchase also comes with ongoing customer support to maximize your listening enjoyment anytime you want professional advice on components, tubes and headphones.

SPECIFICATIONS

- SET topology
- CineMag output transformers with tertiary winding
- Vacuum tube rectified passive CLCLC power supply
- Hand wired point to point signal circuit
- 100K high Alps blue Velvet volume control
- Two input selector switch, one pair XLR Balanced inputs, one pair RCA unbalanced inputs
- Balanced headphone drive
- One pair Neutrik Speakon speaker outputs
- Speaker kill switch
- 4-foot detachable umbilical cord
- Will drive 8 ohm speakers to 4 watts. Input sensitivity 1.5V for full power
- Recommended headphone load 8 ohms or higher
- Power bandwidth -1dB 10Hz-25kHz
 - Power into 32 ohms 2W
 - Power into 100 ohms 800mW
 - Power into 300 ohms 400mW
- Typical headphone frequency response -1dB 15Hz-30kHz
- Balanced line output 11 volts into 600 ohms. -1dB 15Hz-30kHz
- Unbalanced output 0.5V for 3.25V output -1dB 12Hz-35kHz
- Dimensions: 12" wide by 16.5" deep front control knob, to rear panel switches. 10" high W/O tubes
- Weight: 16 lbs

Headphone/ Speaker Vacuum Tube Amplifier For another copy of this manual contact:
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