

Classic Circuitry: Greek Style

My latest tube amp (**Photo 1**) features 6A3 tubes (2A3, with 6.3V heating), preceded by 12SL7 tubes. I call this unit Black Cherry, due to the color scheme of the chassis. The unit's dimensions (**Fig. 1**) are in metric, and the circuit (**Fig. 2**) includes nothing new under the sun, mainly due to the work of American and European pioneers who have gone before (primarily between 1938 and 1970). I chose simplicity in the design, because I'm sure that the best amp is simply a wire connected between a source and the speaker. Unfortunately (or not), we need to put something in between.

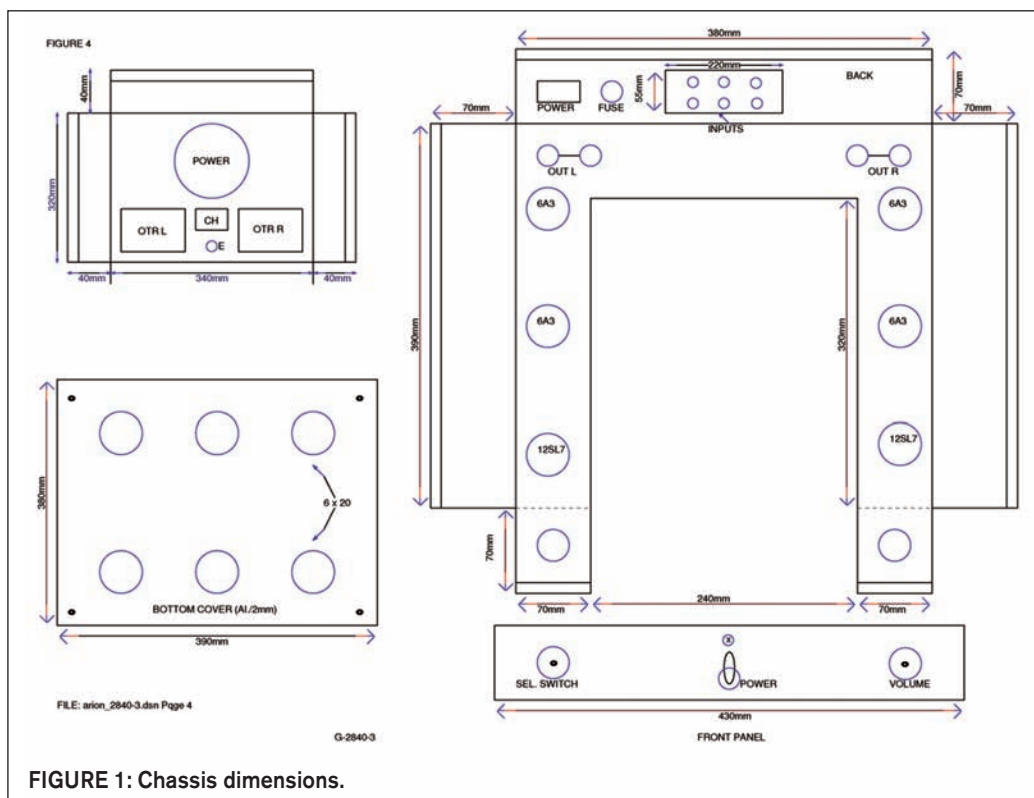
CIRCUITRY

The power stage (**Fig. 3**) includes two 6A3s in parallel, working in class A, with automatic bias tube amps. All the parts are good quality, carefully selected. The output transformer (OTL, **Fig. 4**), the most important part for all tube amplifiers, is manufactured here in Athens by Tim, who has a lab specializing in customized transformer construction. The first stage is a classical SRPP based on a 12SL7 double triode with a good enough amplification factor (I also tried the Russian 6H9C, with the same results). The amp could work with zero feedback or with different amounts of feedback, controlled by the switch.

There is nothing special about the power supply, except maybe the fast diodes for the high voltage rectifier and the special capacitors. No stabilization and no slow start—this to keep the price down! Of course, the power transformer (toroidal type) and the choke were



PHOTO 1: The Black Cherry tube amp.



made by Tim, as we requested.

CHASSIS AND TUBES

The chassis, at least, is an original design. In fact, there are two chassis mounted one on top of the other, made from aluminum 2mm soldered with Argon. The bottom one contains all the transformers and the big capacitors, while the top one includes the tubes and the in/out connectors. The 6A3 and the 12SL7 are Sylvania (NOS), and came from a for-

FIGURE 3: Power supply.

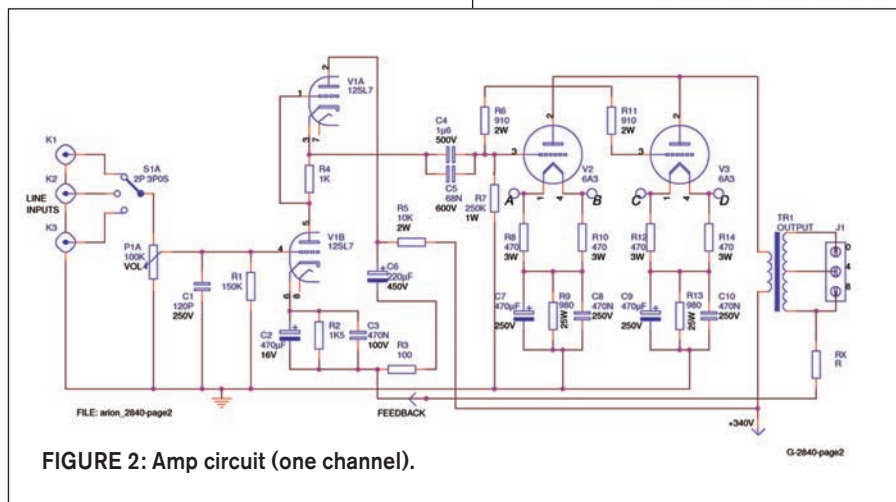
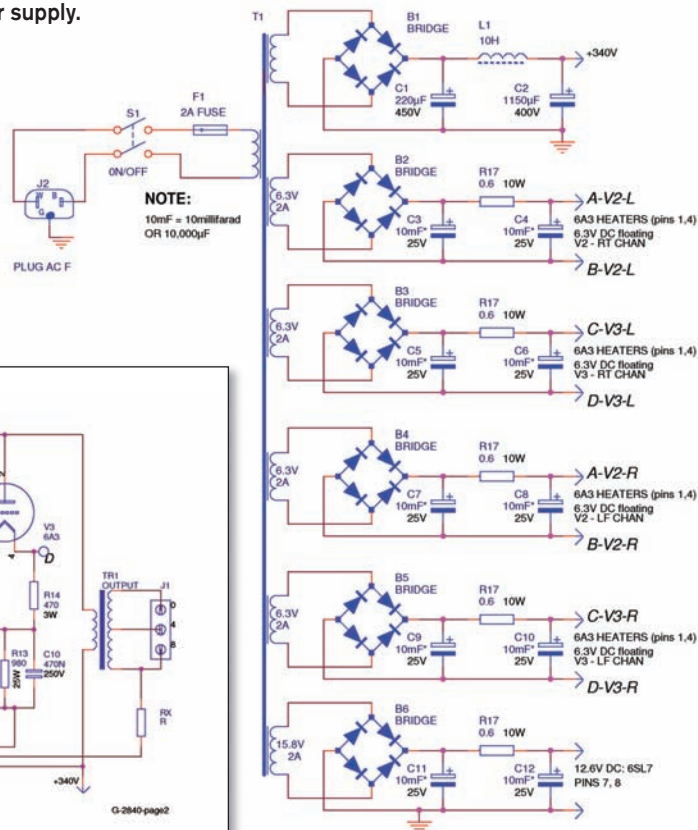


FIGURE 2: Amp circuit (one channel).

BEST OF THE CLASSICS



Tung-Sol 6L6GC STR
6L6G 6SL7 6SN7GTB 6V6GT
12AX7 12AX7/ECC803S
5881 6550 KT66



Genelex Gold Lion KT88



Mullard EL34
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mer American military base. On a similar chassis, I used the impressive 6336 power double triode, with good results. (Side note: A few years ago I returned to my former country of Romania, for family reasons. A friend took me to visit a military base, where I observed some soldiers amusing themselves by shooting at tubes and watching the little explosions. I stopped the massacre and purchased

the survivors, at a good price. The brand names included Philips, Siemens, Tesla, and others, in original boxes!)

I would like to thank my collaboration team: Hristos Diamantopoulos (metallic and special electronic construction), Aris Tsiklis (architect design), and George Provataris (metal/wood construction).

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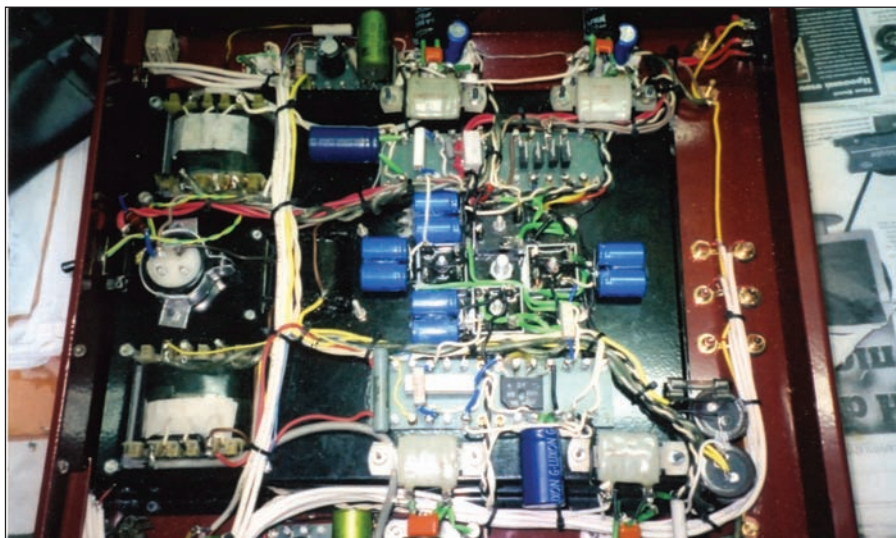


PHOTO 2: Amp innards.

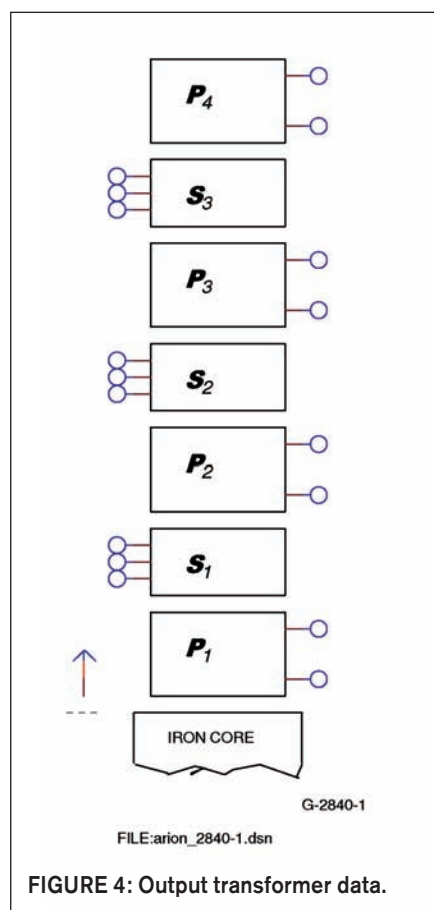


FIGURE 4: Output transformer data.

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