

# icon Audio

Award winning Valve Amplifiers

*designed by David Shaw*



## NEW Stereo 40 MKIII EL34 or KT88 valves

**40+40 watts rms  
Remote Control  
Triode Mode  
Valve Rectifier  
Tertiary Transformers  
Tape Monitor  
Choke Power Supply  
Standby switch  
No Feedback\***

***Why does a VALVE RECTIFIER, TERTIARY TRANSFORMERS, and NO FEEDBACK make the Stereo 40 MK III so special?***

Its nearly ten years since we introduced our Stereo 40, designed by David Shaw, founder of Icon Audio. During this time we have used our expertise to make other highly successful, award winning valve amplifiers, each one pure valve and hand-made such as our MB845 90w triode monoblocks. So we decided to incorporate some of our new ideas into a new 'High End' version of Stereo 40 whilst keeping it affordable.

**A Valve Rectifier** (centre valve) helps to give a very smooth sound, but normally adds to size and price. We have found a way of incorporating a valve rectifier whilst keeping the power and speed of our other designs. We found the excellent Western Electric design, the 274B to give the best results

**A Tertiary Transformer** has an extra (third) winding which put simply, allows the output transformer to compare both the input and output, and 'null' distortion. Thereby dramatically improving the performance, so much so that there is no 'global feedback' used. We believe our expertly hand would output transformers to be amongst the finest available.

**Feedback** is used in most amplifiers to improve the performance in terms of bandwidth and distortion. But too much can actually increase the 'Nasty' higher order distortion giving an unpleasant 'metallic' quality. We normally use a minimal amount, but Stereo 40 MKIII is so good that none is necessary

The Stereo 40 is designed to work with a wide range of output valves. You can choose between EL34 or KT88 (or even KT66/77, 6CA7, 6550). You can also choose between either "Ultralinear" or Triode\* mode to give the maximum choice of operating conditions. Its Almost like having two amplifiers in one!

The GEC British designed KT88 brilliantly illuminates complex recordings with great speed and verve, The EL34 offers a slightly warmer more laid back interpretation.

Close attention has been paid to the big power supply using eight large capacitors and a large "choke" in a traditional "Pi" configuration. This gives very low source impedance with a huge reserve of power available for large transients without clipping. Whilst low ripple and hum, with the advantage that it is very resistant to RF noise coming through the mains.

This combination gives a very smooth and detailed sound stage which works well to bring out the colour and texture of older recordings and whilst not over-emphasizing the harshness of many modern digital recordings. In short an amplifier capable of resolving very high definition, that is very easy to live with that has plenty of power to control modern speakers.

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 famous Plexiglas valve cover to create a stunning visual impression.

On the scales at 25Kg this amplifier is 9Kg heavier than the ST40i. No lightweight in quality or performance and should give many years of excellent service.

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 buy an Icon Audio product, you get:

- A UK 240v specification product. Designed for use in UK and Europe.
- A full UK guarantee.
- Free telephone or on-line help
- A comprehensive manual to tell you everything you need to know, including how to check the performance & how to check and change valves.
- UK service dept with three 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 six 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
- All hand wired point to point
- No printed circuit or tag board to 'colour' sound
- Japanese Blue ALPS volume pot.
- Class A, all Triode front end
- Output circuit Ultralinear or Triode switchable\*
- 4x EL34/KT88 precisely matched for best performance
- 1x 6SL7/6N9 first stage valve, 2x 6SN7 phase splitter
- 274B/GZ34 valve rectifier for 'Soft start' and smooth sound
- No global feedback used
- Standby switch to save valve life and power
- 2x 40w RMS per channel output
- 2x 20 Watts RMS in Triode mode
- Signal to noise level -90db
- Freq response better than 20hz-20kHz +0 – 1db
- Power bandwidth 10hz-30khz
- Total harmonic distortion 0.15% at full output
- Suitable for 4 to 16ohm loudspeakers
- Supplied with attractive safety guard.
- Audiophile quality metal film resistors
- Rubicon/Nichichron power caps.
- Blue LED mains indicator
- Valve rectifier
- Choke regulated power supply
- **Audiophile quality polypropylene audio caps.**
- Silver TEFLON audio cable
- Custom hand wound Tertiary output transformers
- Ceramic valve holders for minimum noise/leakage
- Centre tapped heater circuit for minimum hum
- Gold plated Input & speaker terminals
- Four line inputs – CD, Tape, Tuner, Aux
- Tape monitor circuit with 'Record Out'
- 250mv input sensitivity.
- 230/240volts 76w SB, 140w Min, 240watts max.
- 1.6A AS rear fuse
- CE, ROHSS and WEEE where applicable.
- 390mmW, 410D, 210H, 25kg (a minimum of 30mm height should be added to allow for ventilation)

(Specifications subject to change, errors & omissions excepted. General 16/07/10)

(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 Stereo 40 MK III with Premium quality Tung Sol 6SL7 and 6SN7 driver valves. **AT NO EXTRA CHARGE, worth £50.00.** This give added definition and warmth. Subject to availability

## Want to part exchange your old equipment?

Ask for a quote. Ideally you should have the manual and original box(s) or suitable packing for transit. We can uplift direct from your home (usual cost £20.00) and upon confirming the condition of the item will deduct the amount from the sale price. We regret that it is not possible to do PX with the 30-day trial option.

The British designed

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