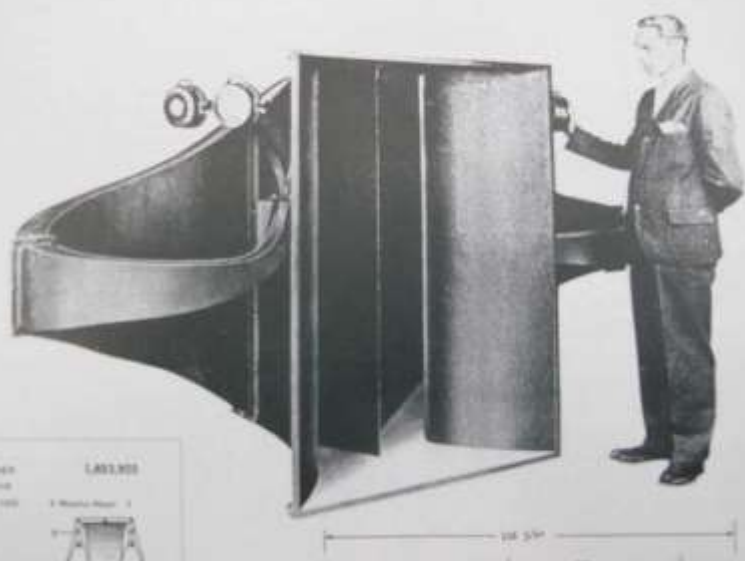


SILBATONE ACOUSTICS

New Audio Legends



www.silbatoneacoustics.com



Silbatone Acoustics mission is to capture the impact and excitement of the great Western Electric triode and horn theater loudspeaker systems of the 1930s and 1940s for modern listeners. Obviously we are serious enthusiasts of classic equipment, but we believe that progress can and must be made. Modern materials, manufacturing techniques, and many decades of perspective on circuit design are foundations for great improvements.

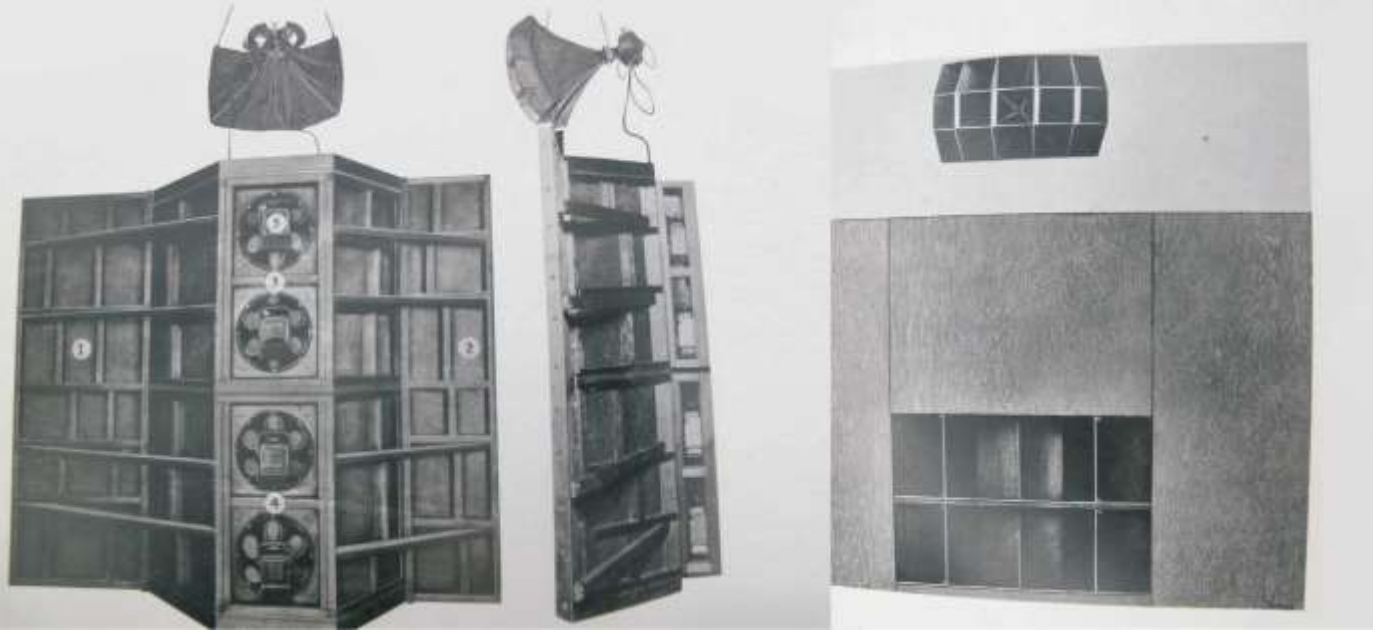
As dedicated tube lovers and collectors ourselves, we put a lot of emphasis on choosing the highest quality tubes for our creations. Since Silbatone does not produce for the mass market, we are not limited to those tube types currently being manufactured in China and Eastern Europe. All of our products feature NOS vacuum tubes and frequently we select extremely rare specimens from our extensive collection to produce limited edition or custom designs. These collector's items deserve to be heard and appreciated.

Our concern with ultimate parts quality extends far beyond vacuum tubes. We use the best silver-wired transformers for input and line applications. Our power output transformers are in-house "semi-silver" foil designs on high-nickel cores. All Silbatone products are wired with silver monocrystal or litz wire. Volume controls are high-grade stepped attenuators or silver transformer type. Our precision machined and hand-finished solid aluminum chassis contribute to the sound as well as the beauty of the finished product.

Silbatone's engineering team of jc morrison and Dr. Stephen Bae specialize in minimal parts count, direct coupled designs without signal capacitors. In most of our designs, the signal path consists exclusively of silver wire and tubes with occasional resistors as required. These direct-coupled topologies require sophisticated power supply implementations to allow the simple audio circuits to achieve their promise and that is where our engineering artistry lies. No Silbatone electronics are copycat products and we do not make any design compromises to meet arbitrary price points.

Since Silbatone Acoustics' production is quite limited and most buyers are highly-specialized and experienced audiophiles like ourselves, we feel a special relationship with the people who appreciate our approach. Our goal is not to profit in the marketplace but to pursue ultimate achievement in musical enjoyment and contribute to evolution in the art of sound system design. We believe that our lineup for the Year 2011 represents a new level of performance and we are pleased to have the opportunity to share the music and excitement with our friends in the audio world.

We find it to be one of the great audio mysteries but also a powerful truth that certain very early sound technologies offer a level of performance and satisfaction unmatched by most efforts today. The Western Electric Mirrophonic systems are among these legendary achievements. These second generation loudspeaker systems from 1934 enjoy iconic status among audiophiles and vintage collectors, fantastic performers in their own right and the mother of all two-way theater systems that followed them, including very famous ALTEC and JBL models of the 1940s and 1950s.



Given the great popular appeal of Western Electric L9, 15A, and 16A systems at recent High End shows, we decided that it was time to feature the famous Mirrophonic Model 3 for our visitors. Few ever have a chance to hear these super-classic loudspeakers but it is an experience that anyone interested in music reproduction should enjoy at least once. We consider the M3 to be a unrivalled benchmark in horn speaker performance to this day. Oddly, the first of the genre remains the best ever! How can this be?

In our show system, a pair of WE 26A horns with WE 594A field coil drivers handles 300-13,000hz. The remarkable low frequency speed, dynamics, and presence are provided by a pair of TA-4181 field coil woofers per side in large open-backed TA-7396 "W" horn baffles with wings. The original TA-7376A crossover network is vital in order to achieve the full musical capabilities of this system.

Although WE Mirrophonic systems are certainly an important chapter of technological history and fascinating period industrial art, we present the Mirrophonic M3 with the listening pleasure of our visitors in mind. We appreciate the opportunity to share these rare items from our museum collection and we hope that you learn from and enjoy this 80 year old classic as much as we have.



Silbatone Preamplifiers for 2013

Many audio products claim to be innovative but on close inspection they are not much more than recycled vintage consumer designs. We have taken on preamps as a special challenge, because we know we can do better by stepping beyond typical budget-driven design conventions. A preamplifier is the heart of any system but low level amplification has until now been a relatively underdeveloped art.

The C-100 Reference Preamplifier features a radical new transconductance amplifier circuit that provides 10000X front end gain using our world-class silver litz wire and amorphous core step-up transformer and only one active stage. RIAA EQ is LCR type. Line section uses a silver wire input transformer volume control, a Bendix 6900 triode push-pull stage in Blumlein self-balancing configuration, and a silver-wired output transformer with 600 ohm balanced output. Only transformers and tubes exist in the signal path. Capacitors are used only for equalization. We feel that the C-100 is without competition as the finest preamp on the market today.

For people who require a separate line amplifier, the L-100 offers the output stage from the C-100 in a single chassis format with enhanced control panel. This is a modern implementation of classic studio technology built to the ultimate standard. Highly flexible and logical connections and controls are designed into the L-100 platform. Silver transformer/attenuators allow 24-step attenuation. Mute, Mono, Monitor, and Phase Invert controls are available via front panel buttons. Balanced XLR inputs and outputs are furnished in addition to multiple RCA inputs. The L-100 Line Amplifier is a superior control center for digital systems and a perfect interface for separate phono amplifiers.

Among the Silbatone line of uncompromising preamplifiers, our C-102 MKIII design stands out for rich, emotional, and enjoyable musical performance. This is a preamplifier that we can truly recommend for all music lovers. For maximum flexibility, dual silver litz step up transformers are provided to accommodate both low and medium impedance cartridges. Many phono enthusiasts use more than one turntable or multiple tonearms, with both SPU and modern MC cartridges, and the C-102 MKIII allows for input selection via a front panel control. One is no longer forced to choose between cartridge technologies because the C-102 MKIII selectable 1:10 and 1:20 MC transformers offer optimal configurations for all types!





The C-102 MKIII uses Western Electric small signal tubes in the phono section and a 12AY7/6900 line stage with a silver amorphous output transformer. Balanced inputs and outputs are provided, using a balanced configuration relay switched silver autoformers at the line input. Performance with line level sources is among the best we have heard.

We think of the C-102 MKIII as a control center for the discriminating audio generalist, featuring top-level music reproduction for multiple phono inputs and line sources. Why limit yourself to less?

For our L-103 line amplifier, we refined the classic approach taken by manufacturers of the best vintage professional studio gear. We use a powerful output tube driven by a push-pull input stage, all directly-coupled circuit without capacitors, featuring a silver-wired, amorphous core line output transformer. Our line amp configuration will drive any tube or transistor amplifier on the market, using any cable, and provide compelling depth, precision, and solidity in the musical presentation that will never happen with typical cathode follower line stages. The L-103 features a remote control switched attenuator and remote input switching for the best in modern convenience.

After one song, you will realize that you are listening to a new class of performance with Silbatone preamplifiers, the sound of progress in vacuum tube audio design!



Silbatone L-101 Line Amplifier

Back in the 1980s, the ideal audio component was considered to be equivalent to a “straight wire with gain.” At Silbatone, we know this is not enough. In the case of our L-101 Line amplifier, comparing it with a direct connection from a digital source shows that it is the direct connection that is missing something crucial to musical understanding and appreciation that our preamplifier provides. Our goal is to produce preamplifiers that make musical experience better in every way – both more vivid and more realistic, making an important contribution to listening pleasure rather than adding noise and electronic colorations to the signal as so many current designs.

The L-101 is a marvel in circuit simplicity. A silver wire nickel core autoformer is used at the input for adjustable gain trim to establish proper system sensitivity. Attenuation is by a proprietary design optical device which we have found to be sonically superior to other approaches in this application. A Western Electric 262B small signal triode is the only active device in the signal path, configured in a novel “zero volt in, zero volt out” structure which is directly coupled, requiring no signal capacitors. At the output, signal can be taken directly from the tube elements or via silver wire output transformers which provide balanced and unbalanced connections.

The L-101 power supply is double-regulated, with a remarkably low noise floor and featuring an extremely fast buffer optimized for audio performance sidestepping the sonic footprint that lesser regulator designs impose on musical sound. Noiseless, smooth, and natural music is our goal and sophisticated power supply approaches are essential resources for getting there.

As dedicated preamplifier specialists, Silbatone has been leading the way in low level amplification for some years but we feel that a new level of performance has been discovered with our L-101 Line Preamplifier. Those seeking the best possible line amplification need look no further!



Silbatone Phono Amplifiers

The Silbatone SQ-100 offers the highest level of phono performance for archival reproduction, critical music analysis, and ultimate listening enjoyment. Using the best silver litz input transformer in combination with an optimized version of our D3a based transconductance amplifier input stage, the SQ-100 is among the quietest and lowest distortion vacuum tube preamplifiers ever designed.

LCR phono equalization is implemented using pure silver inductors on nickel cores. Relay switched EQ settings include RIAA and various obsolete formats for accurate playback of non-standard vintage recordings. Makeup gain is provided by a Western electric 437A triode transformer coupled to a Bendix 6900 output stage. Controls for phase invert, multiple MC input selection, and gain trim are provided for system optimization.

The SQ-100 is a specialized tool designed to do one job, phono reproduction, at the highest available level of technical and musical performance. A new standard in phono preamplification.



Our SQ-102 Phono Amplifier is based on the radical design of the phono section of our C-100 Reference Preamplifier, using a transconductance amplifier circuit with our world-class silver litz wire and amorphous core step-up transformer. The circuitry is all direct coupled, using capacitors only for equalization. Astonishing detail, rich tonal color, and powerful dynamics are the benefits of this novel approach.



Silbatone P-300 Mono Amplifiers

The world of audio has enjoyed a great revival of directly heated triode amplifiers, however the strengths of push-pull triode amps have been virtually neglected in the modern era. After all, the push-pull 300B Western Electric Model 86 was the premium theater amp of its day and the very famous single-ended WE 91 was an economy version!

The P-300 is our first entry into the push-pull 300B arena. This new direct-coupled, three-stage design conceived to bring the best of the 1930s into the third millennium. Although we are SE specialists, the power and dynamic accuracy of push-pull with the smooth and musical flavor of a great 300B amp provides a very exciting listening experience.

The P300 direct-coupled circuit uses a differential pair of WE310A pentodes, driving an RCA 6C8-G dual triode in a cross-coupled local feedback arrangement. The circuit is self-balancing for AC signals, providing long term stability and very high technical performance. The output stage has a separate power supply and no global feedback is used. Only silver wire and tubes are in the signal path from the input jack to the silver foil output transformer.

Our goal with the Silbatone P300 Mono Amplifiers is to do something special celebrate the glory of push-pull 300B's, the premier audio power tube of all time. Build quality of the P-300 exceeds that of all other amplifiers manufactured to date. Production of this presentation-quality instrument will be strictly limited to five pairs maximum.

Silbatone RP-30 Power Amplifiers

At Silbatone we use many rare and unavailable NOS tubes in our designs because we understand that the best sound requires the best tubes and supporting parts. For the past years, we have been producing a series of limited-production amplifiers using exceedingly scarce tubes that even serious tube collectors seldom get to see, let alone hear.

With our WE262 mono amplifiers and DA100 integrated amplifiers, thousands of people at audio shows have enjoyed the performance of these rare and exotic tubes. In a market where sameness is all too familiar, these amps provide a fresh listening experience of the highest order.

For 2013, we are crafting a series of five sets of RP-30 Amplifiers, featuring the Osram DET25 triode, the military version of the industrial DA60. Production is strictly limited to the number of units we can support with existing tube stock from our collection, gathered over several decades of dedicated searching.

The RP-30 is a 30 watt class push-pull amp using German Post C3m pentodes, one of the best small signal tubes ever manufactured, in a fully direct-coupled circuit. A unique self-balancing circuit ensures perfect performance independent of tube differences or drift of characteristics due to aging. Output transformer for the RP-30 amplifier is a silver foil unit designed specifically for this amplifier and constructed in-house at Silbatone's laboratory.

With the RP-30, we believe that we have developed a highly-optimized platform to experience, enjoy, and understand the DET25 triode. For the audiophile who has everything, we don't think they have a DET25 amplifier yet! The RP-30 is a triode amplifier offering the highest echelon of musical performance with a special flavor that this rare antique British tube provides.



Silbatone Silver Integrated Amplifiers

For over a decade, Silbatone has led the way with the finest stereo integrated tube amplifiers ever produced. The latest generation of our famed Ji-300 series, the Mark III, maintains our tradition of quality, value, and performance, with significant upgrades over previous models. As with all Silbatone products, build quality is far beyond other commercially-produced amplifiers. Teflon boards and silver internal cabling are employed for ultimate musicality and detail and our exclusive semi-silver foil output transformer, built on exotic nickel material, pushes the limits of output transformer performance.

The Reference 300 silver signature, our flagship 300B single amplifier, now features all directly-coupled circuitry for maximum purity and quality of musical reproduction. The new driver stage features a current feedback architecture using premium 7062 and 5687 dual triodes for very low distortion, large signal performance at an impressive bandwidth – 180Vp-p, -3dB at 20kHz into 100k ohms – a level of performance rarely achieved in any tube or solid state designs. There is little in the signal path except triode tubes and silver wire and no error correction or feedback is used in the final stage, an elegant solution that imparts very little of its own character, allowing the flavor of the 300B output stage and silver foil secondary output transformer to be presented in all its simple beauty.

The new Reference 300 Silver Signature version features remote-controlled sixty position (1dB/step) volume switching using a pure silver autoformer to provide the ultimate in sonic and ergonomic satisfaction.

The Ji-300 and Reference 300 series are easily the ultimate integrated amplifiers in existence today and we are quite confident that they are among the very finest music amplifiers on the market, even when compared to our own more expensive products. We achieve the highest musical potential of the classic WE300B triode with innovative designs engineered for today's world-class systems.



Reference 300 Silver Signature

Ji300 MKIII

At Silbatone, we understand that the first step in designing for superior audio is to select the best tubes for our products. Our new RI-25 Integrated amp is an extreme case, using insanely rare and expensive Ed and DA100 power triodes that are legendary for their performance. Most audiophiles and vintage collectors never get to see these items, let alone listen to them. We had to dig very deeply into our treasured vintage tube collection to produce this extraordinary limited edition amplifier.

The all-triode RI-25 uses Western Electric 437A voltage amplifiers, the legendary German Ed low mu triode as a driver, and the British DA100 for output tubes. The Siemens Ed is similar to a 2A3 but considered far superior by many listeners. The DA100 is roughly equivalent to the common 845 but it has a flavor all its own. Today these historical triodes are collectors' items, the rarest of the rare, but they deserve to be heard and enjoyed

When listening to the RI-25 amplifier, one is immediately impressed by the special musical character this instrument offers. It is a high powered single-ended implementation but it exhibits delicacy and detail on par with the most sophisticated low-power triode amps--a very colorful and emotional presentation, yet precise and well-controlled. We never heard anything else like the tasty sound of the RI-25 and we consider it to be a highly successful advanced experiment in the possibilities of tube amplification. Production of the RI-25 will be limited to 10 pieces.

