

ACOUSTAT

corporation

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The ACOUSTAT SERVO-CHARGE AMPLIFIER

Service and Owner's Manual

Remove 5, 6, 8, 9 pins

~~250K 1/4W 5% 1/2W~~

new 6.8M (outer)

new 10K 5W (if old part is blue)

Remove .01 μ F C22 & C29

Sky Pilot™

Title: Acoustat, Monitor 3 and Monitor 4, Electrostatic Loudspeaker system, and Model X Servo-charge Amplifier Service Manual.

This document is a recreation of the original xerographically copied manual which was obtained from the engineering department of the company which was the last known owner of the Acoustat line (early 1999). It has been modified from it's original form in the following ways:

- Due to the condition of the original schematic diagram the one herein was recreated in an Accel CAD database. It is electrically identical, but graphically different from the original.
- Note 1 on the schematic was deleted and the information referencing diode types was included at the components mentioned in the note.
- Previously omitted filament circuitry was drawn into schematic to match the layout drawing.
- Two capacitors on the schematic diagram, erroneously sharing the same reference designation of C26 were corrected.
 - The 220 pF on the printed circuit board was changed to C39.
 - The parts list was corrected to include the previously missing C39 (C26).
 - The layout drawing was corrected from C26 to C39.
- A zener diode, hand drawn on the schematic at V1 and V3, connected Cathodes to Cathodes, Anodes to control grids was omitted since no other information was available about the mod.
- The formatting within pages was modified as a result of the OCR scanning process and available typeface.
- Spelling errors were corrected as a result of the OCR scanning process.
- Page numbering was added to pages and table of contents for improved organization.
- Table of contents was reformatted and corrected to include all figures and drawings.
- Images were cleaned and straightened.

Note: The handwritten notes on the cover page of the manual were added by the original owner of the manual. They have been preserved for historical accuracy. The meaning, technical significance and validity of those notes are unknown.

ACOUSTAT
SERVO-CHARGE AMPLIFIER
SERVICE MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION

The Servo-Charge Amplifier Service and Owner's Manual has been written as part of an effort to minimize the service problems encountered by our dealers and customers. We have found that many of these problems are the result of a failure to understand the principles of operation of the circuitry of the Servo-Charge amplifier and that this situation has been complicated by a lack of documentation of the physical layout of the printed circuit board.

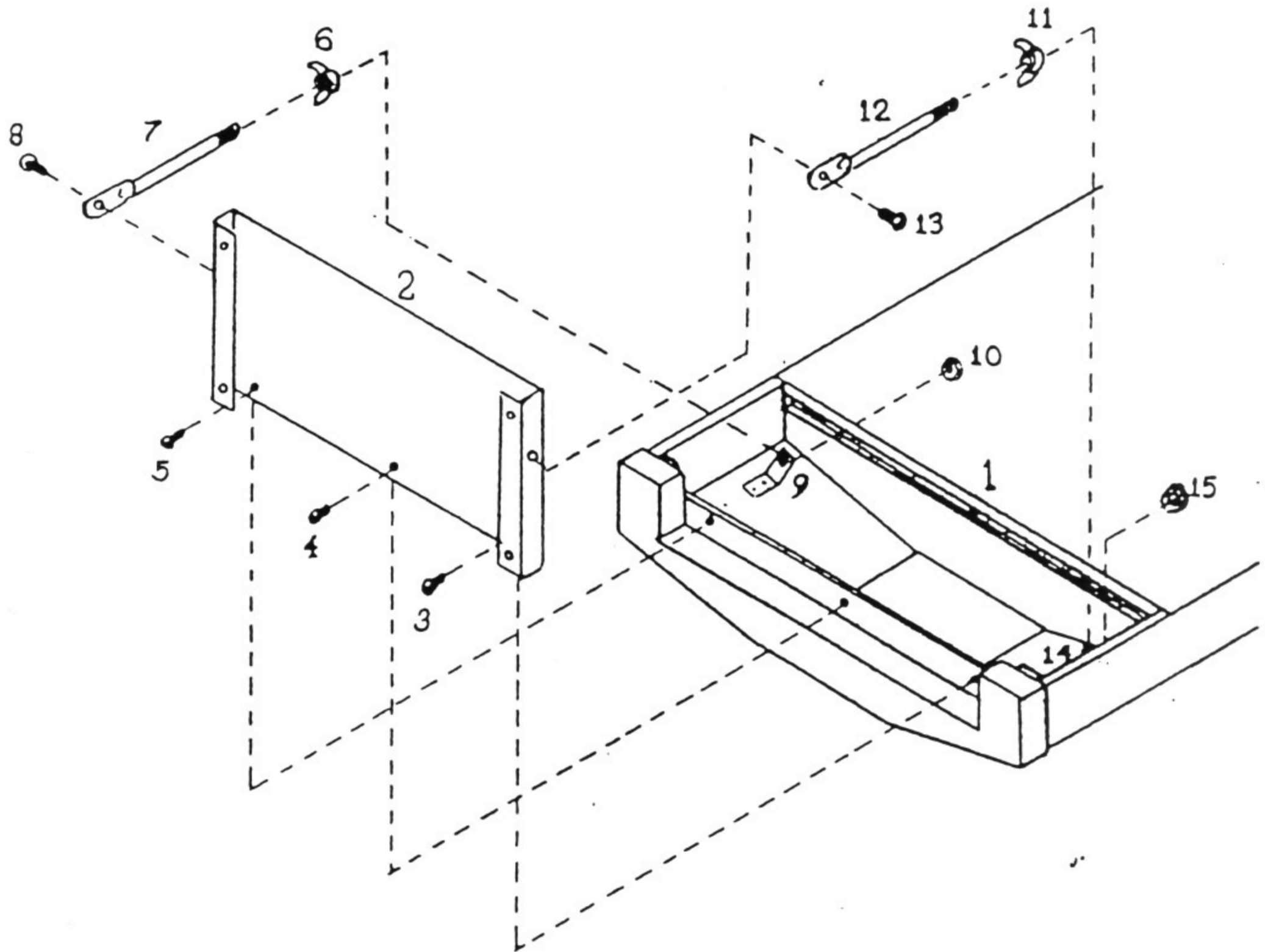
We have also determined that many systems fail to function at their full potential because of deficiencies in the initial set-up. Therefore, a section has been included outlining the preferred procedure for the placement and connection of a newly installed system.

The acoustics of the room will play a major role in the ultimate performance of the speaker system and we have found that it is far more rewarding, in terms of the quality of results obtained, to tune the speakers to the room than to add line equalization. A solid, reflective, and unobstructed wall should be directly behind the speakers and any-required tuning of the room can normally be accomplished with slight changes in the placement of drapes or other wall hangings.

Final Assembly
ACOUSTAT MONITOR THREE AND MONITOR FOUR
Monitor Three shown in the following drawings:

The following instructions are for the final assembly of one Monitor Three or Monitor Four speaker; repeat these instructions for the final assembly of the other speaker.

In the interest of clarity, the screw-in feet and the high voltage harness have been omitted from the exploded view immediately below.



1. Lay the speaker face down on a carpet for final assembly.

Lay the speaker on the plastic bag it came in to keep carpet fuzz off the grill cloth.

2. Install the screw-in feet in the base-plate as follows:

Thread the rear (plain edge of base-plate) feet fully in.

Thread the front (three holes in edge of base-plate) either fully in or left out up to 5/8" depending on whether the speaker is to be placed on a hard floor or a soft rug respectively. This is for appearance so that the amplifier will appear level when the speaker is upright.

Adjust the feet so that the base-plate will not rock on a hard floor.

3. Install the base-plate (2) on the speaker (1) using silver finish machine screws (3) (4), and (5) and tighten so that the felt dampers are compressed to about one half of their original thickness or about 1/8".
4. Remove the hex nuts (10) and (15) from the threaded rods (7) and (12) respectively. Leave the wing nuts on the rods as factory supplied.
5. Insert the threaded ends of rods (7) and (12) through the holes in mounting brackets (9) and (14) respectively.
6. Thread hex nuts (10) and (15) onto threaded rods (7) and (12), just a turn or so.
7. Note that your hardware package contains four short black screws and eight longer ones.
8. Using two of the shorter screws, fasten threaded support rods (7) and (12) to the sides of the base-plate (2) keeping the flattened "offset" toward the base-plate.
9. While the speaker is still lying down, screw the two hex nuts (10) and (15) back down the threaded rods (7) and (12) until they contact brackets (9) and (14). Then run the wing nuts (6) and (11) up finger-tight against the brackets.

10. Prepare a Servo-Charge amplifier for installation:

Remove the top cover, install the four tubes provided, and replace the cover.

11. Stand the speaker upright in the approximate location where it will be used.

Caution: Under certain conditions, the speaker could easily be pushed over forward until the final azimuth adjustment has been made or the amplifier mass added.

12. Before plugging the amplifier into the wall, connect the speaker by plugging in the high voltage harness to the amplifier. Make sure that the color code (and therefore the electrical phasing) of the harness matches that of the receptacle on the amplifier. This will occur when the wires enter the three prong plug from the top.

13. Position the Servo-Charge amplifier on the base-plate so that the mounting holes align.

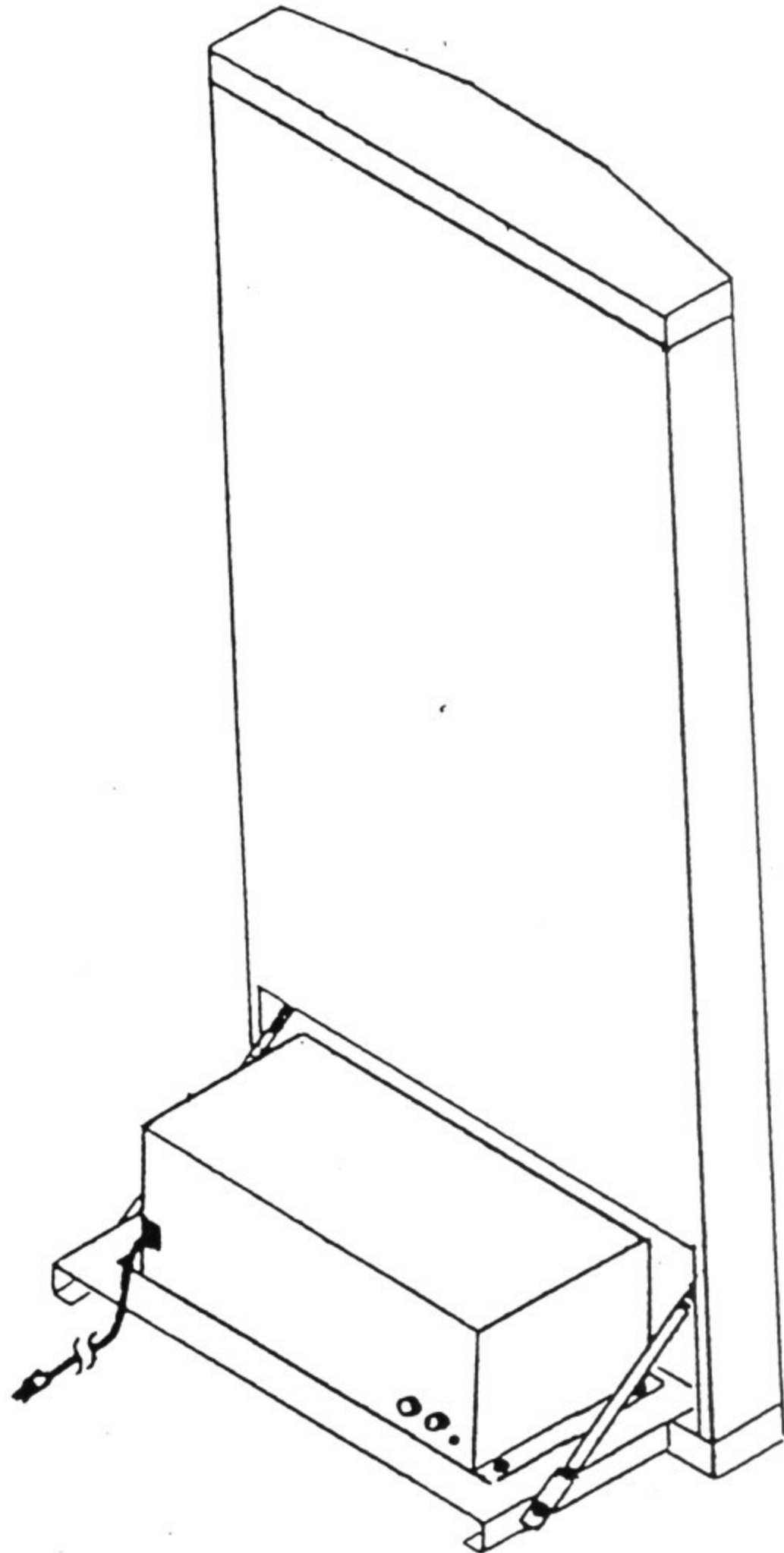
14. Bolt the Servo-Charge amplifier to the base-plate using four of the longer black screws. Tighten only until the grommet just begins to compress.

THIS WILL
PREVENT ACCESS
TO THE HIGH
VOLTAGE
CONNECTOR
WHILE THE
SPEAKER IS
OPERATING

15. Make an initial setting of the vertical azimuth of the speaker using the wing nuts (6) and (11) and the hex nuts (10) and (15). The hex and wing nuts should turn freely with the fingers; if not, exert slight fore or aft pressure on the

array. Do not tighten so that one rod "fights" the other. A good initial setting is to tilt the speaker so that the top of the speaker is two to three inches behind the bottom of the speaker. This can be easily judged by dangling a broomstick behind the speaker.

16. Set the gain pot to approximately the nine o'clock position and the high frequency balance pot to approximately the eleven o'clock position for your initial listening tests. You are now ready to connect the input and AC power.



SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACOUSTAT ELECTROSTATIC SPEAKER SYSTEMS

The set-up procedure, exclusive of assembly, is the same for all Acoustat electrostatic speaker systems. We have been able to make the Monitor series speaker systems more tolerant than the Acoustat X systems for small aberrations in the set-up and room tuning; but we still advise that the preferred procedure should be followed fully to obtain the best possible performance from the system.

Some of the principal considerations which will determine the performance potential of the speaker system as installed are:

The Wall Behind the Speakers:

This wall should be hard, reflective, and sufficiently rigid that it will not rattle--sliding glass doors are a "No-No".

The Orientation of the Speaker System Within the Room:

Unless there is an overriding consideration to the contrary, the speakers should project sound along the longer axis of the room. This can be considered a universal rule of stereo speaker systems and is in no way peculiar to Acoustat products.

The Grounding of the System:

It is essential that the power supply ground be connected to prevent any buildup of charges in the Servo-Charge amplifier power supplies. **THE THIRD WIRE GROUND MUST BE CONNECTED.**

While the system may function reasonably well with only the power supply ground, this leaves the main signal ground floating. **THERE MUST BE ONLY ONE SIGNAL GROUND IN THE SYSTEM** and this should normally be provided at the input of the preamplifier.

Electric Feedback:

Electrostatic loudspeakers produce a strong electric field which can influence the operation of any low level electronic circuitry in close proximity and can result in feedback at frequencies well above the audio spectrum---this has the effect of high power dissipation and decreased headroom in the system. The tone arm of the turntable and the input of the preamplifier should be kept at least six to eight feet from the nearest speaker to ensure that no feedback can occur.

Phasing:

Acoustat speaker systems are designed to preserve correct absolute phase throughout the system including the final coupling of the signal to the air. This ensures that vocalists and instruments will sound as natural as possible. Therefore, make sure that the connections from the speakers to the amplifiers are correctly oriented: the wires should enter the three prong Pomona plug from above.

The Area Between the Speakers:

This area should be kept clear of major obstructions to airflow if optimum imaging is to be achieved. The size and shape of objects placed between the speakers will determine the extent of any deleterious effect on the imaging---objects such as record cabinets or equipment racks between the speakers should be avoided.

Tiltback:

The tiltback of the speakers has the combined effect of improving the vertical dispersion of the system and of breaking up standing waves in the room. Two or three degrees of tilt is typical and is a good initial setting---this corresponds to about three inches of rearward displacement of the top of the speaker.

Toe-in:

This setting is possibly the least critical. However, if the speakers are toed in too much, a soloist will appear to be singing from a position somewhere beyond the rear wall.

Distance from the Wall:

If the speakers are placed too close to the rear wall of the room, a soloist will tend to sound "muffled", and if the speakers are placed too far from the wall, a soloist will sound "hollow".

For purposes of setting up the system, we recommend that the speakers be auditioned using a solo female vocalist of reference quality. We have found that the human ear more sensitive to anomalies in the human voice than in instrumental music and, since "imaging" is most discernible in the mid-range, we recommend that a female vocalist be selected.

Once the system has been assembled and connected, the orientation within the room determined, the initial settings of tiltback and toe-in made, and the amplifier controls set (nine o'clock for the gain controls and twelve o'clock for the HF Balance control of the Monitor---eleven o'clock for the Acoustat X and Monitor Three would be typical); the audition may begin with the speakers placed too close to the wall. At this point, the speakers should sound muffled. By moving the speakers out from the wall a little at a time, a point should be reached at which "you could reach out and touch the soloist." When this has been accomplished, the tiltback, toe-in, HF Balance, and gain balance to center the preamplifier control can be fine-tuned by experimentation.

SHIELDING AND GROUNDING OF AUDIO SYSTEMS

The purpose of this section is not to make the reader an expert on the subject of shielding and grounding; but, rather, to provide simple guidelines for the reduction of environmental noise in the signal paths typically used in high fidelity audio systems. In this application, the use of single conductor coaxial cables between single ended outputs and inputs is nearly universal and the RCA "phono plug" is the most common connector in use. Therefore, we will confine our discussion to this type of feed.

While it should be obvious that proper grounding is always important, it is all the more important with this type of feed where extraneous shield currents are so easily injected into the audio. Thus, it is quite important that a single grounding point for the system be selected so that the ground and "neutral" currents of the power wiring in the building in which the system is installed will not be conducted through the shields of the connecting cables. The degree to which a single well chosen grounding point can be selected and the degree to which ground "loops" can be eliminated will be the principal determinant of the degree to which inductively coupled and resistively coupled environmental noise can be isolated from the system. Thus, for example, the two cables of a stereo feed from a stereo preamplifier to a stereo power amplifier should be of equal length and use adjacent routing. Deviation from this principal can result in the cable shields acting as a loop antenna.

It should be pointed out that power line noise can never be totally eliminated as some noise will be fed in through the power supplies of the equipment involved in addition to the internal noise generated within the high fidelity audio equipment. While it is certainly true that the internal noise situation is improved with each advance of the "state of the art", the problem can never be completely eliminated!

Normally, the system grounding point chosen will be the lowest level signal input of the system and when a tuner is not in use, this will usually be the phono preamp input. If a tuner is present, it is often preferable to use the low side of the antenna input as the system ground,

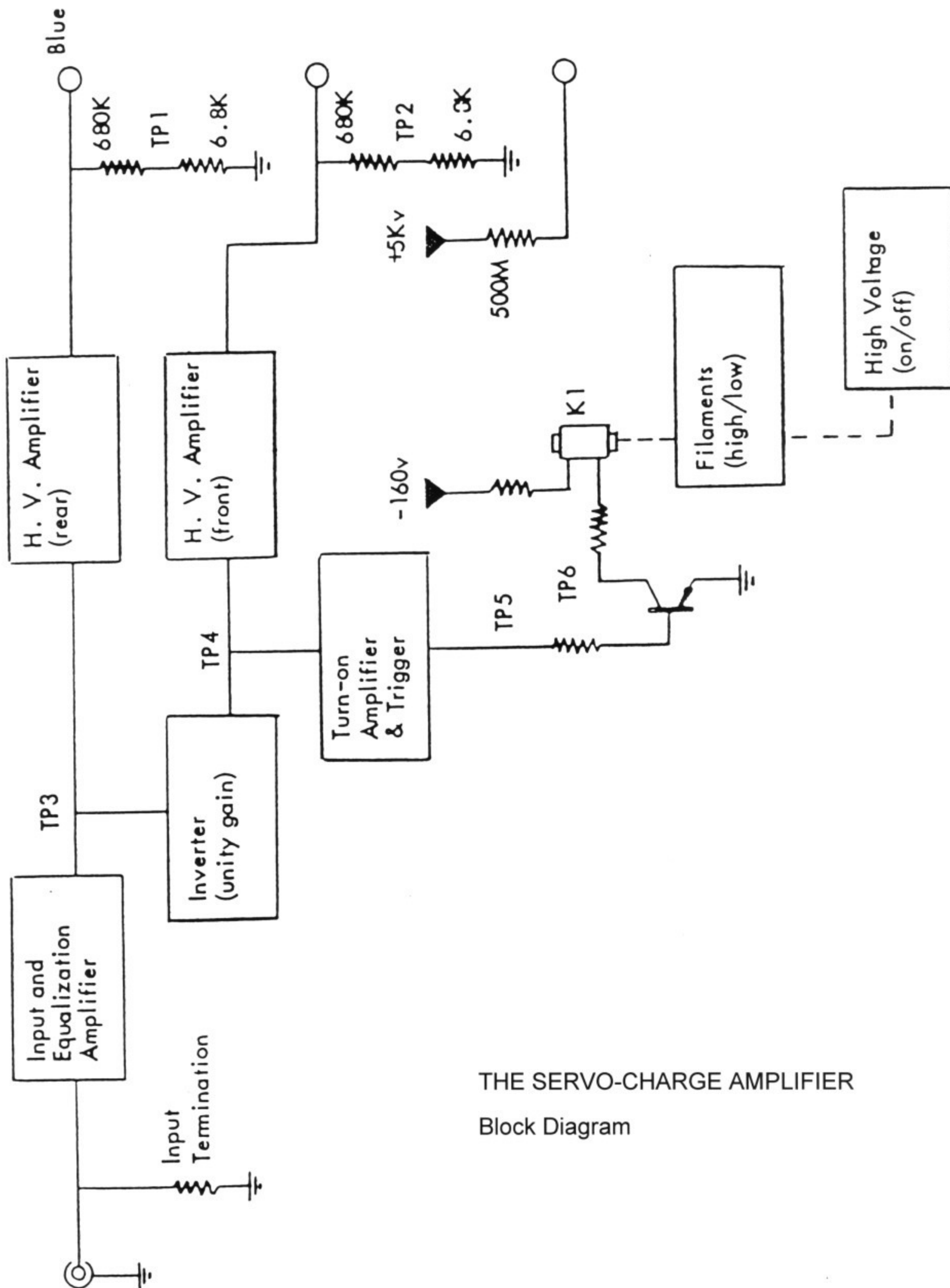
Shielded cable should always be used from any source to the input of an amplifier and the connections, especially of the shields, must be excellent so that the resistance of the connection will be trivial.

Thus, the connectors must be clean and must mate securely and the attachment of the connectors to the cables must be properly executed.

DESCRIPTION

The Acoustat Servo-Charge amplifier is a hybrid solid state and vacuum tube device specifically designed to drive the electrostatic transducer panels of the Acoustat X and Acoustat Monitor loudspeaker systems. In order to eliminate the requirement for power amplifier switching cables from the preamplifier, the Servo-Charge amplifier is designed to turn itself on at the first presence of an input signal and to turn itself off after, the signal has been absent for a period of approximately five minutes. To accomplish these goals, the solid state portion of the circuitry operates at all times. When the amplifier is in its "off" state, the high voltage supply for the output vacuum tubes is inoperative and the vacuum tube filament supplies are reduced to one half of their operating voltage. The input section of the amplifier is based on a premium quality quad integrated circuit operational amplifier used for signal amplification, active equalization, phase inversion, and control of the automatic turn-on/turn-off functions.

The output sections of the amplifier are two hybrid discrete operational amplifiers which drive the "plates" of the electrostatic transducer panels in a push-pull format. The output vacuum tubes operate at the working voltage of the electrostatic panels so that transformer "matching" is not used.

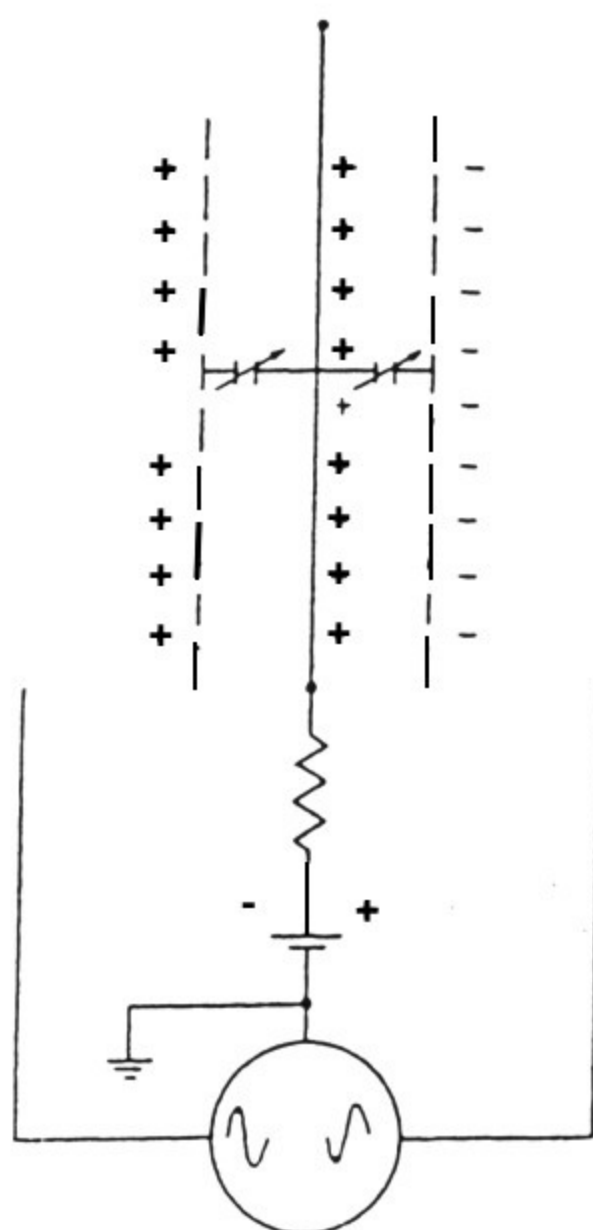


THE SERVO-CHARGE AMPLIFIER
Block Diagram

THEORY OF OPERATION

In order to understand the operation of the Servo-Charge amplifier, it is very useful to have at least a rudimentary understanding of the load which it was designed to drive.

Acoustat uses what are referred to as constant charge electrostatic transducer panels in which the electrostatic "plates" are driven in a push-pull format and the driven diaphragm is biased in such a manner that its electrostatic charge remains constant despite the application of high voltage audio signals to the electrostatic plates.



$$C = q/V$$

$$J = CV^2/2$$

$$F = Eq$$

Where: C capacitance in farads

V voltage in volts

J energy in joules

F force in Newtons

E electric field in
Newtons per coulomb *

q charge in coulombs

* Newtons per coulomb
and volts per meter
are alternate units of
measure of electric
field

While we admit that the physics is not "obvious at a glance" we will, for the purposes of this amplifier service manual, simply state the electrical requirements to drive the electrostatic loudspeaker panels that we use at Acoustat Corporation and not dwell on the physics of electrostatic loudspeaker design.

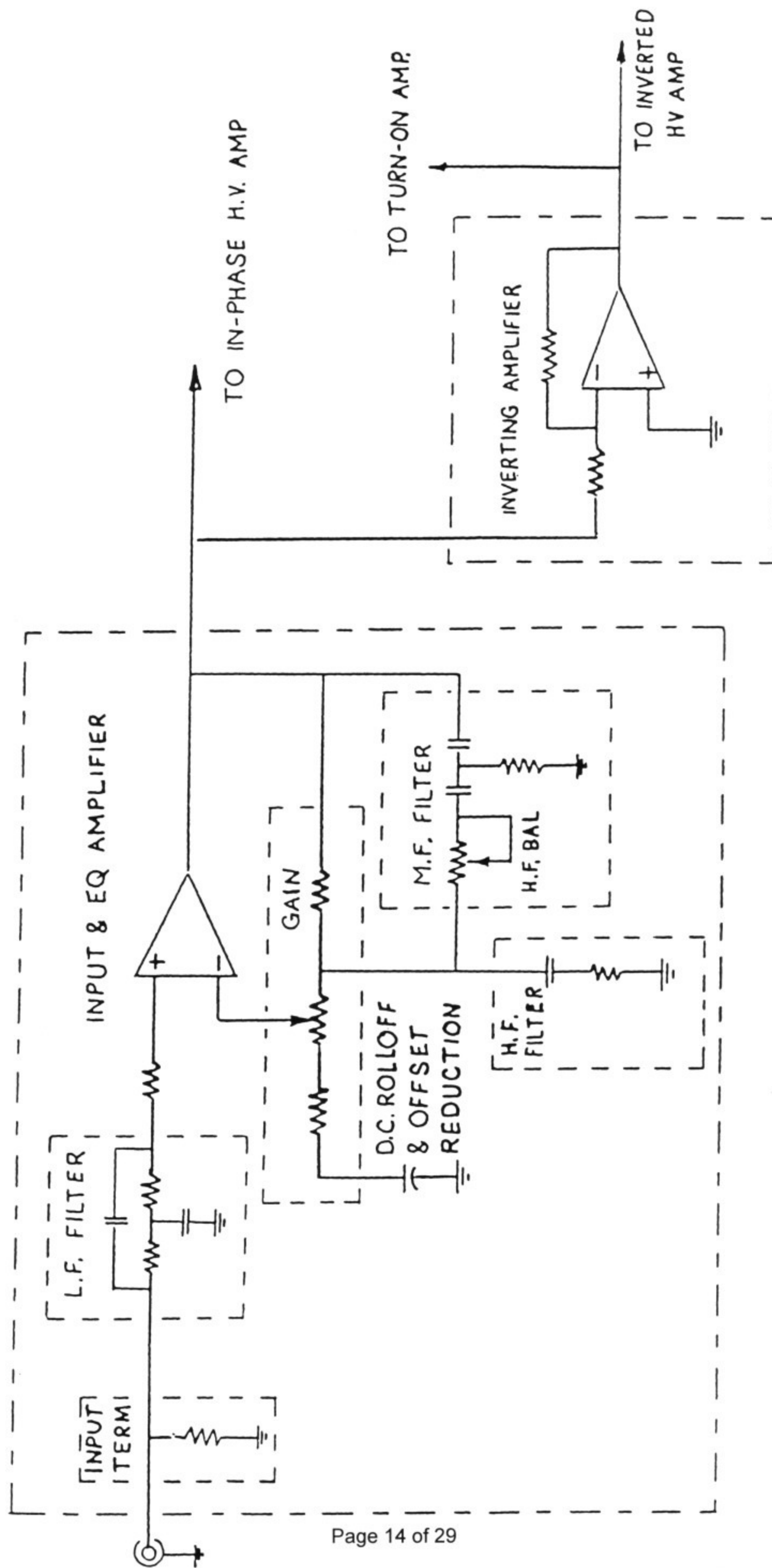
In order for the charge on the driven diaphragm to remain constant despite its own physical excursions (it is the moving element used to excite the air and is analogous to the cone in a conventional speaker) and the electrical excursions of the electrostatic "plates" (we use insulated wire bonded to a plastic grid rather than perforated and insulated sheet metal for reasons of reliability and acoustic openness) it must be biased through a sufficiently high resistance that its charging time constant will be long compared to the period of the lowest audio frequency used and the DC offset of both plates must be nearly the same and sufficiently removed from the potential of the diaphragm for proper biasing of the system to exist.

Within the Servo-Charge amplifier, we bias the diaphragm through a 500 megohm resistor to provide the proper time constant and capacitively couple the drive to the electrostatic plates so that their DC offset can be controlled to near ground potential by the use of a resistor which is tapped to also act as a low voltage measuring point for testing purposes.

The above biasing situation results in a DC voltage differential of 4000 to 4500 volts between the diaphragm and the plates. The plates are in turn driven with a maximum AC signal amplitude of 4000 to 4500 volts peak to peak. The front and rear plates, being operated in a push-pull format, are driven with equal amplitude but 180 degrees out of phase.

The use of constant charge transducer panels eliminates the second order (or square law) functions from the force equations so that the waveform used to drive the electrostatic plates is nearly identical to the waveform at the output of the first stages of the amplifier except for amplitude and is also nearly identical to the waveform at the Input of the amplifier (from the preamplifier or tuner) except for amplitude and the equalization necessary for flat acoustic frequency response. The panels are also equipped with felt dampers on their rear sides to broaden and reduce the amplitude of the diaphragm resonant peak so that it can be used in a controlled manner to improve the bass frequency response of the system.

The theory of operation of each specific portion of the Servo-Charge amplifier is as follows:



INPUT AND EQUALIZATION AMPLIFIER

This is the first stage of the Servo-Charge amplifier and is in operation in both the operating and standby modes of the amplifier. This stage amplifies and processes the signal from the preamplifier or other audio source and drives the phase inverter and in-phase (rear plates of the speaker) high voltage amplifier. The Input and Equalization Amplifier provides approximately 20 dB of gain at typical settings of the Gain control and includes the equalization networks and the HF Balance control.

R5 acts as the input termination and sets the input impedance of the amplifier.

R9, R10, C12, and C13 comprise the "wall effect" equalization network to smooth the base response of the dipole output of the speakers in the presence of an acoustically reflective rear wall. If the speakers are to be operated a considerable distance from a wall, or in "free air", this network can be effectively bypassed by the addition of 1/2 megohm resistor in parallel with C12.

C18, C19, and R18 comprise the midrange equalization network.

R15 and C17 comprise the high frequency equalization.

R16, R16A, and R17 comprise the High Frequency Balance control network and determine the relative contributions of the midrange and high frequency equalization networks.

R12, R13, and R14 comprise the overall gain control network and C15 acts to limit the DC offset of the stage by reducing the DC gain to unity.

In addition, on amplifiers prior to serial number 1700, a higher level input was provided which was designed to be driven by the speaker outputs of any tuner/amplifier on which a preamplifier was not provided. This provision was seldom utilized and was eliminated in the process of changing the main input provision from a DIN (RCA phono) jack to a 1/4 inch diameter telephone jack. This is a two conductor (mono) jack with only tip and sleeve connections.

If required in individual cases, the "receiver input" provision may be substituted for the preamplifier input on the later amplifiers by moving the tip connector lead from the telephone jack to the printed circuit board so that the input to the amplifier is the junction of R6, R7, and R8 rather than the junction of R5, R9, and C12—after installing R6, R7, R8, and C11 on the printed

circuit board (R6 is substituted for the factory installed wire jumper in this procedure).

PHASE INVERTER

This stage is driven by the Input and Equalization Amplifier and is used to drive the Rectifier (or Turn-On) Amplifier and the inverted-phase (front plates of the speaker) high voltage amplifier.

This is a unity gain stage without equalization and should very seldom be the cause of any technical difficulty. The signal at pin 8 of the op-amp should be equal to, but out of phase with, the signal at pin 7 (output of the Input and Equalization Amplifier).

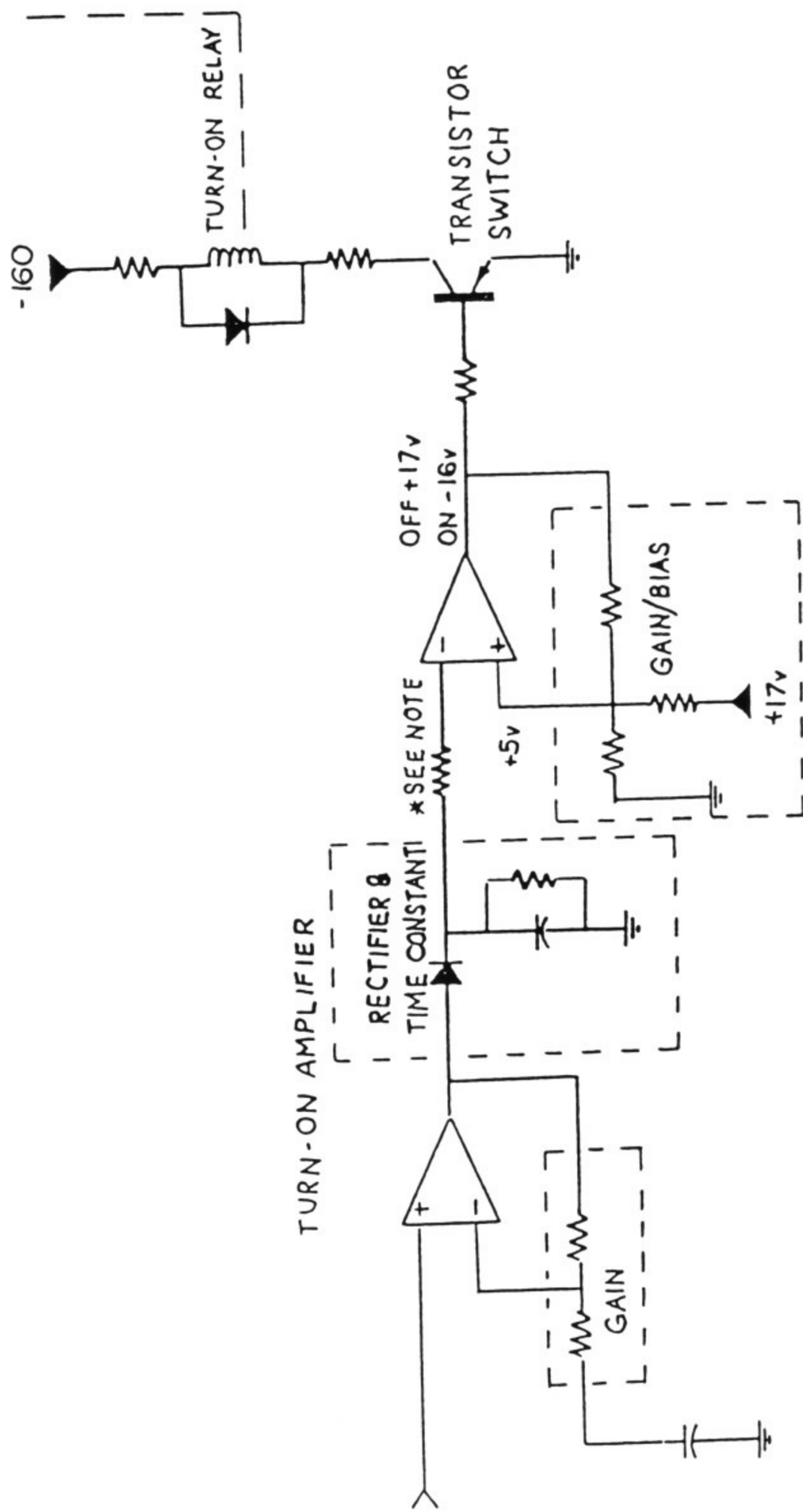
RECTIFIER (TURN-ON) AMPLIFIER

This is the first stage of the automatic "instant-on" circuitry and is driven by the Phase Inverter.

This stage provides up to 40 dB of gain throughout the audio range diminishing sharply to unity gain at DC for offset control. The full gain is available only for low signal levels since the stage is driven to clipping during moderate to loud passages; but the full gain must be available for small signals so that the amplifier will not tend to "turn-off" (or resume its stand-by mode) during quiet passages in musical selections.

Rectifier diode CR14 provides a DC signal to operate the Trigger Amplifier and the signal storage network composed of R26 and C21 provides a sufficiently long time constant to maintain the amplifier in its operating mode for 3 to 6 minutes (averaging about 5 minutes) after the cessation of moderate to high signal levels. After amplifier serial number 1700, R25 is included in the circuit to slow the charging rate of the signal storage network to reduce the probability of "falsing" or turn-on due to a single transient pulse.

While difficulties involving this stage are not common, assembly errors have occurred and a complaint of premature turn-off (or turn-off during quiet passages in music) should lead first to a visual inspection of R23 and R24 for their correct values.



NOTE: INPUT PROTECTION FOR OP-AMP PREVENTS DAMAGE DURING POWER FAILURE OR WHEN UNPLUGGED

TRIGGER AMPLIFIER

This is the switching portion of the automatic turn-on circuitry and is used to operate relay K1. Relay K1 is part of the power supply and controls the filament supplies and, through one of the filament supplies and a triac, the high voltage supply.

The Trigger Amplifier operates as a voltage comparator and is referenced to the positive low voltage supply rail such as to cause an "off" , or stand-by, state of the Servo-Charge amplifier. The amplitude of the reference bias is such that approximately five volts (positive) is required from the Rectifier Amplifier to force an "on" condition.

The gain of the system is such that approximately -15 dBv at the main input should result in an "on" condition when the Gain control of the Servo-Charge amplifier is at approximately the "nine o'clock" position.

DIAPHRAM BIAS

The diaphragm (or diaphragms) of the Acoustat loudspeaker is biased from the high voltage supply through a 500 megohm resistor. Thus, the speakers are only biased when the Servo-Charge amplifier is "on".

OUTPUT AMPLIFIER

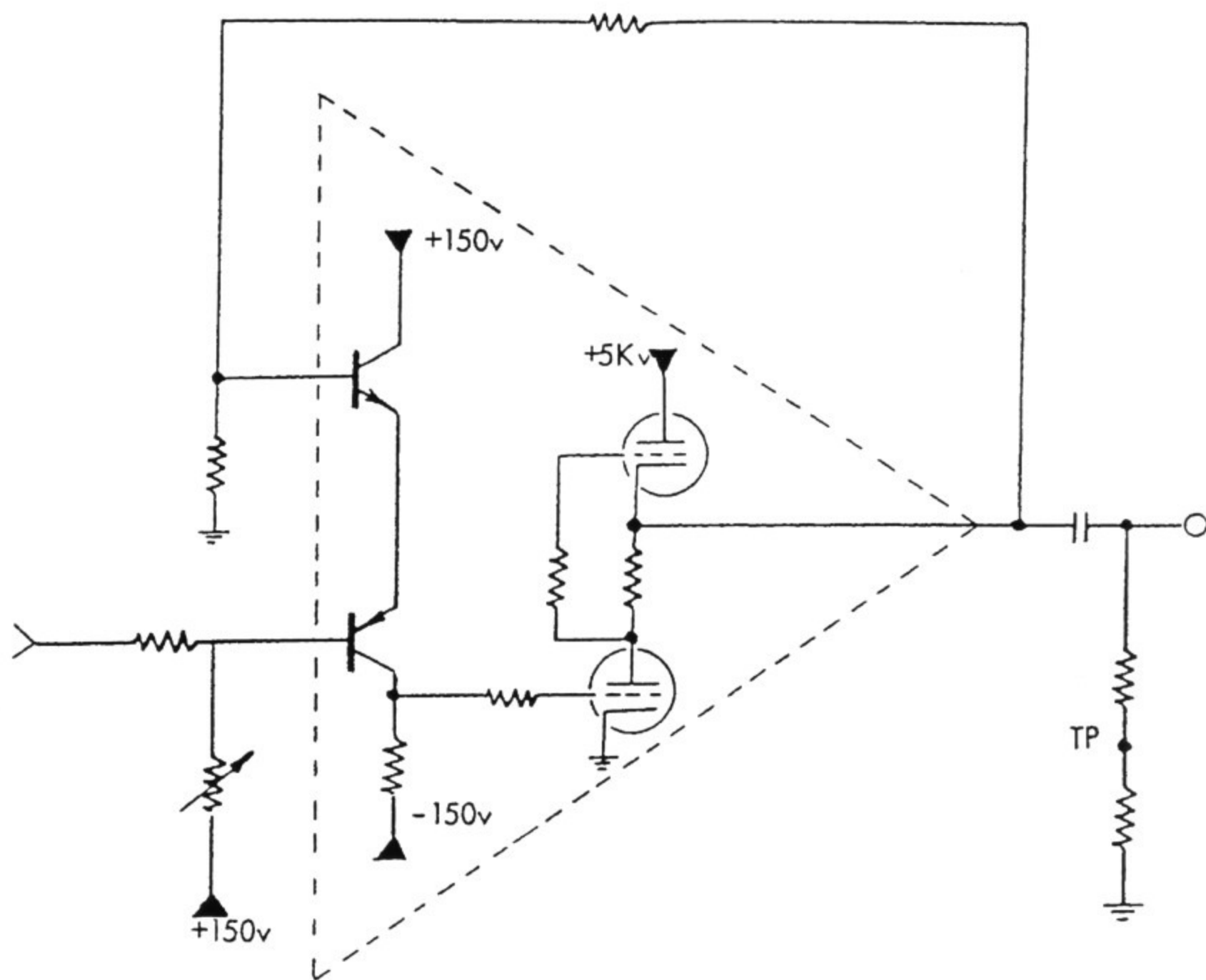
There are two Output Amplifiers which operate 180 out of phase so that the electrostatic plates of the Acoustat speaker are driven "push-pull". Each of the Output Amplifiers is a discrete hybrid op-amp operated with a gain of approximately 45 dB.

With the Gain control set at the "nine o'clock" position, a 7.5v RMS input signal at 1KHz will result in 4500v peak to peak signals at the electrostatic plates of the speaker.

The high voltage portions of the output amplifiers operate only when the Servo-Charge amplifier is in the "on" condition.

SIMPLIFIED SCHEMATIC

Discrete High Voltage Amplifier



POWER SUPPLIES

The power supply of the Servo-Charge amplifier can be thought of as having been divided into two principle parts. The 17 volt supplies and the 150 volt supplies operate at all times. The 5000 volt supply operates only in the "on" condition of the amplifier and the filament supplies are switched between two levels of operation—6 volts in the "on" condition and 3 volts in the "off" or stand-by condition.

The positive and negative 17 volt supplies, the positive and negative 150 volt supplies, and the filament supplies for the two "lower" vacuum tubes are all powered by a single transformer with appropriately tapped secondary windings. The term "lower" vacuum tubes, in this case, means the tubes with grounded cathode connections. The filament portion of this part of the power supply is switched between series and parallel operation for the "off" and "on" conditions of the amplifier, respectively.

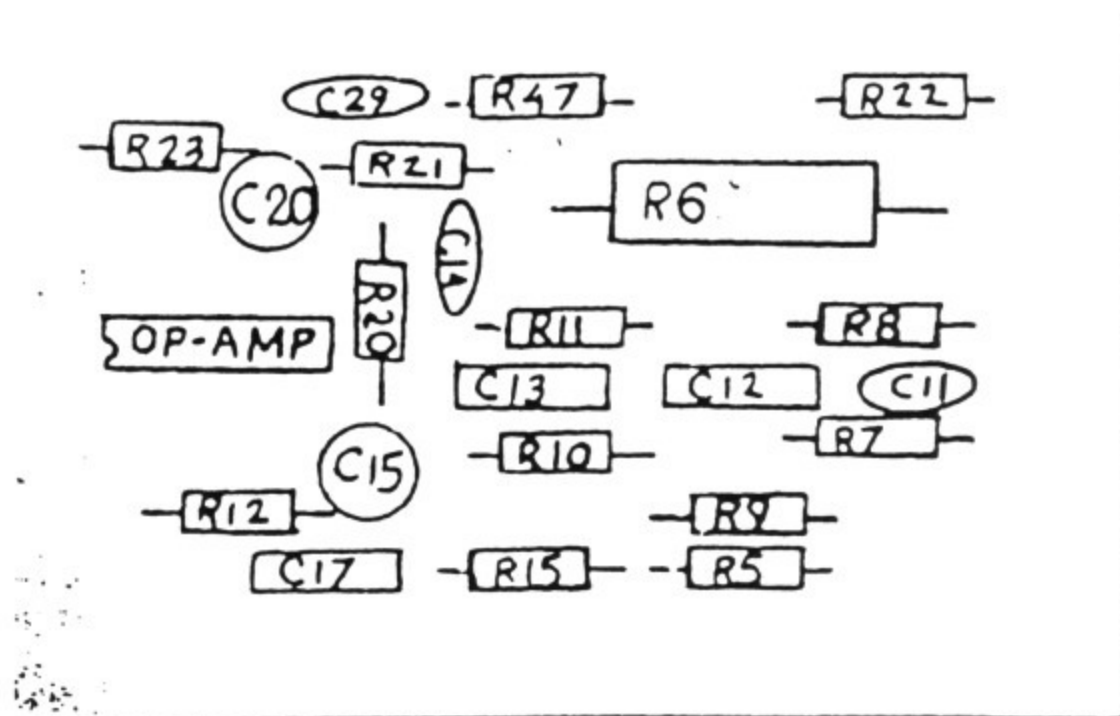
Two separate filament transformers are used to provide the necessary cathode heater isolation for the two "upper" vacuum tubes and the primary windings of these two transformers are switched between series and parallel operation for the "off" and "on" conditions of the amplifier. In the "on" condition, the primary winding of the high voltage transformer is also supplied with power through the triac.

GROUNDING

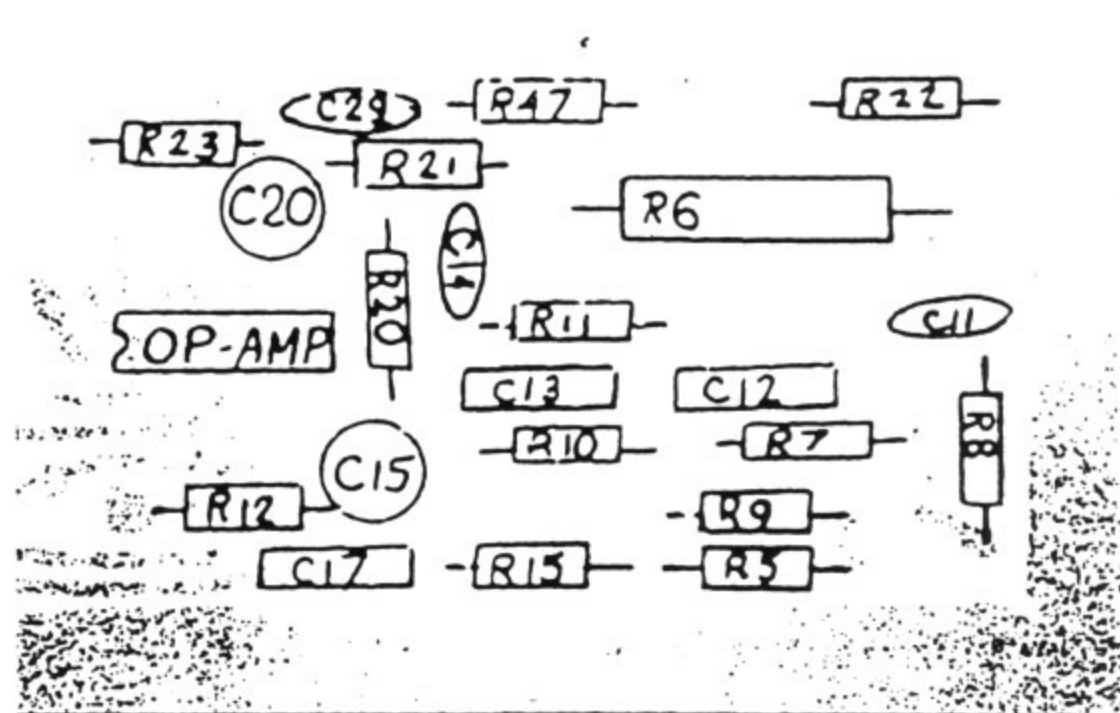
To permit a solid connection between the chassis of the Servo-Charge amplifier and the chassis of the preamplifier or tuner, the Servo-Charge amplifier is "floated" away from power line ground by the use of two silicon diodes. These provide for an isolation of up to six tenths of a volt and preclude the occurrence of the hums and buzzes which result from the slight potential difference between the various power outlets within a room.

It is essential, however, that the power supply ground also be used to prevent any buildup of static charges in the power supplies. Thus, **THE THIRD WIRE GROUND MUST BE CONNECTED.**

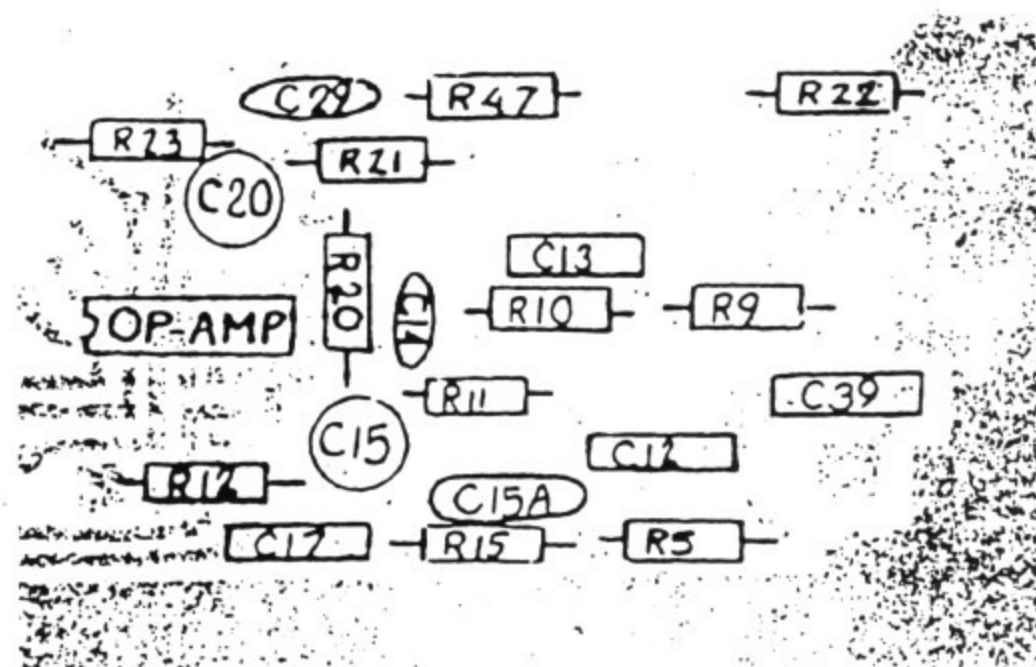
Input area of Printed Circuit
Thru s.n. 1699

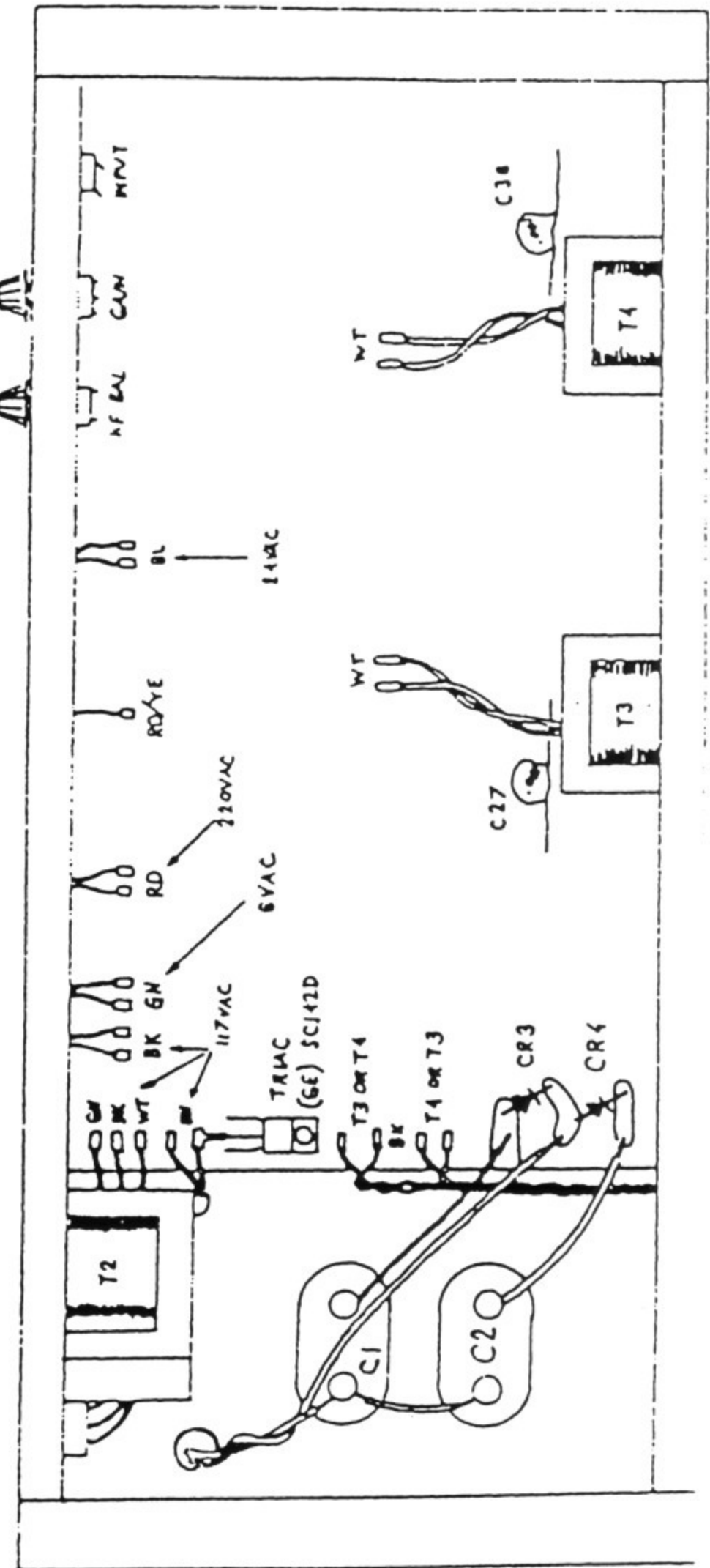
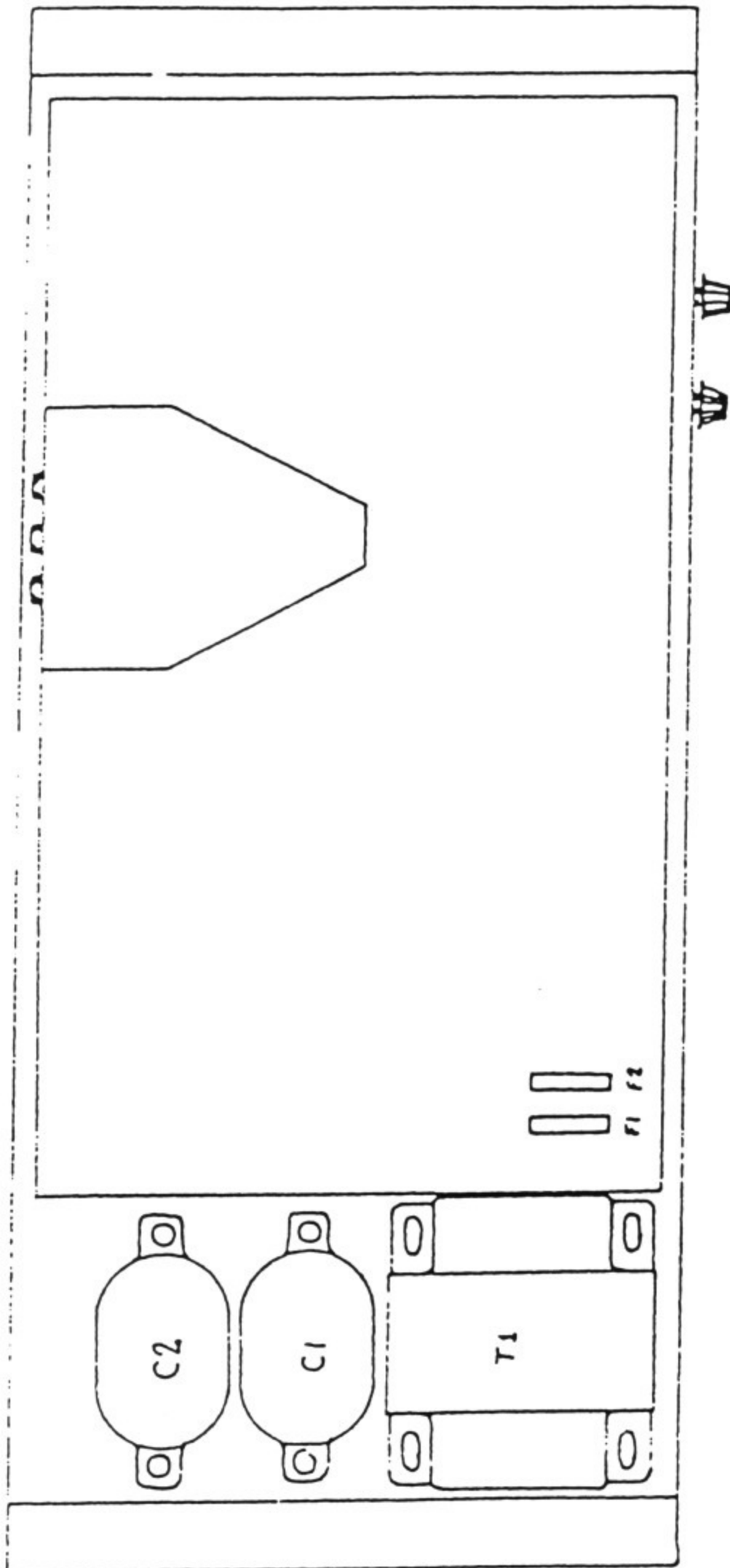


Thru s.n. 1899
R7, R8, C11 omitted
and R6 jumpered as
delivered by factory



From s.n. 1900





CHASSIS ASSEMBLY CA-X3 FEBRUARY 1979

CAPACITORS

C1	1, 3kV, Oil filled
C2	1, 3kV, Oil filled
C3	.01, 3kV, Ceramic
C4	.01, 3kV, Ceramic
C5	1000, 25 v
C6	1000, 25v
C7	22, 250v
C8	22, 250v
C9	22, 250v
C10	22, 250v
C11	470 pF
C12	.0033
C13	.022
C14	220 pF
C15	47, Non-polar formerly 33 or 15 Tantalum
C15A	620 pF, Mica
C16	22 pF
C17	.0022
C18	.01
C19	.0047
C20	47, Non-polar; formerly 15 Tantalum
C21	220, 25v
C22	.01, Ceramic
C23	220 pF
C24	10, 250v
C25	.01, Ceramic
C26	.1, 5 kV
C27	.0001, 6kV
C28	4.7 pF, 6kV
C29	.01, Ceramic
C30	.01, Ceramic
C31	220 pF
C32	10, 250v
C33	.01, Ceramic
C34	220 pF
C35	.1, 5kV
C36	.0001, 6kV
C37	4.7 pF, 6kV
C38	10, 250v
C39	220 pF, 250V

RESISTORS

R1	10K	R45	6.8K
R2	10K	R46	68K
R3	2.7K	R47	750K
R4	2.7K	R48	2M, Pot
R5	68K	R49	100K
R6	100, 5W	R50	10K
R7	680K	R51	10K, 3W
R8	1.5M	R52	10K, 15W
R9	200K	R53	470K
R10	200K	R54	6.8M, 4W
R11	10K	R55	680
R12	4.75K	R56	27K
R13	10K, Pot	R57	6.8M, 4W
R14	470K	R58	680K, 4W
R15	4.02K	R59	6.8K
R16	500K, Pot	R60	100K
R17	10K	R61	500M, 2W
R18	56K		
R19	2.7K		
R20	10K		
R21	10K		
R22	2.7K		
R23	2.2K		
R24	220K		
R25	680		
R26	1M		
R27	10K		
R28	10K		
R29	22K		
R30	1M		
R31	33K		
R32	68K		
R33	750K		
R34	2M, Pot		
R35	100K		
R36	10K		
R37	10K, 3W		
R38	10K, 15W		
R39	470K		
R40	6.8M, 4W		
R41	680		
R42	27K		
R43	6.8M, 4W		
R44	680K, 4W		

COMPONENT CHANGES IN THE SERVO-CHARGE AMPLIFIER

<u>REFERENCE DESIGNATOR</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>FORMER VALUE</u>	<u>REASON FOR CHANGE</u>
CR9 -CR12	1N4006	1N4004	Mandatory for adequate PIV for all conditions
C22	.01 Ceramic	.01 Mylar	Transient response
C25	.01 Ceramic	.01 Mylar	
C29	.01 Ceramic	.01 Mylar	
C30	.01 Ceramic	.01 Mylar	
C33	.01 Ceramic	.01 Mylar	
C27	.001 6kV	Omitted	Slower turn-on to reduce falsing
C36	.001 6kV	Omitted	
R25	680 ohms	Omitted	
C15	47 Non-polar	15 or 33	
C15A	620 pF	Omitted	
C20	47 Non-polar	15	Mandatory due to deformation of Tantalum capacitors
R18	56K ohms	68K ohms	
R15	4.02 K ohms	6.8K or 4.75K	Increase "warmth"
1C	LF347N or uaF774	OP-11 TL-084 HA-4741-5	Increase "air"

Some or all of the above ore installed on nearly all amplifiers currently in service and all are available for Installation on all amplifiers.

R6	Jumper	100 5W	Receiver input deleted after SN 1700
R7	Deleted	680K	
R8	Deleted	1.5M	
C11	Deleted	470 pF	

From SN 1700 through SN 1895, although an amplifier can not have both standard and receiver inputs, it can be converted to have a high level (receiver) input instead of the standard line level input.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Section 1

The Acoustat Servo-Charge Amplifier is designed for years of trouble-free operation. To insure continued reliability the following suggestions are made:

1. Connection or disconnection of audio cables within the system must always be made prior to connection of the amplifiers to the AC outlet. This will prevent possible thermal runaway of the vacuum tubes.
2. Do Not, under any circumstance, exceed the rating of either fuse should replacement become necessary.
3. Do read the section on proper grounding of the audio system.
4. Tubes should be replaced after about one, to one and one half years of average use. Exceeding this life expectancy will most likely result in decreased sonic properties and degradation of high frequency response. A weak tube could fail completely and cause overheating of the grid biasing resistors. The sound will be distorted accompanied by a drop in volume and a tube will usually glow bright red. Zener diode protection has been employed to guard this condition. Should this occur, AC power should be removed as quickly as possible. Refer to Section 2.

Section 2

The purpose of this section is to assist the user/technician in determining the cause of a malfunction and eliminating it. When using the troubleshooting charts, if may be necessary to refer to the schematic and parts layout diagrams. The Acoustat Technical Staff is available to answer questions pertaining to service and to assist in obtaining replacement parts. The AC line cord should be disconnected to prevent dangerous electrical shock, when attempting repairs to the amplifier. All transistors, the integrated circuit device, relay, and 10k 15 watt resistors have been installed in sockets to simplify replacement.

SYMPTOMS

VI or V3 glows red. Sound is distorted, weakened.

or

Tube explodes or cracks.

also

5 amp fuse may be blown .

CAUSE

A tube has failed, usually V2 or V4, causing the "good" tube in the pair to pull full current and glow red.

CURE

Replace both VI and V2 or V3 and V4

Replace the 10k 5w resistor (R37 or R51) and 10k 15w resistor (R38 or R52) closest to the bad tube, or check with an ohmmeter. The zener diode, if used, should also be checked/replaced. Check the 5 amp fuse and replace if necessary.

5 amp fuse blows

Shorted high voltage transformer

or

Shorted high voltage diode

Remove AC power: You are about to operate on the high voltage section ! Determine if the transformer is shorted by disconnecting the red secondary lead from the circuit board. Place a piece of tape over the exposed end of the wire. Install a fresh 5 amp fuse, connect to AC outlet, and apply Input signal for turn on. If fuse blows at this time, replacement of the high voltage transformer is indicated. If the fuse does not blow, check or replace the high voltage diodes (located under the circuit board) observing correct polarity, reinstall a new 5 amp fuse, and reconnect the red wire to the circuit board.

<u>SYMPTOMS</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>CURE</u>
1/2 amp fuse blows	Shorted diode in 150 volt bridge	Check/Replace CR9,CR10, CR11,CR12. Replace 1/2 amp fuse—Do not over-fuse, as this will cause the small power transformer to burn up under shorted conditions.
Amp shuts down from standby mode after 10-15 minutes of play. Input signal is still present.	Defective CR14 Diode opens when heated by nearby tube V4.	Replace CR14 (1N4004 or 1N4006)
Loud intermittent hum	Bad connection at input strip	Check for clean, tight ground connection at input jack of the amplifier and at the output jacks of the preamplifier. A poorly soldered plug on an input cable will also cause this problem.
Constant or Intermittent hum	Check and re-solder bad connection on C5 or C6 1000uf @ 25 v (3300uf on later units)	
Violent purple arcing inside VI or V3	Intermittently shorted filament transformer T3 or T4	Replace the filament transformer associated with the arcing tube.
Waveshapes ok. at test points 1 and 2, When amp is connected to speaker output is very weak.	Open R61 500 megohm resistor	Check or replace R61 500 megohm resistor
Popping Crackling	Arcing tube or Defective R43, R57	Bad tube will usually show visual arc. If popping occurs after considerable on time, replace R43 and R57 6.8 megohm resistors.

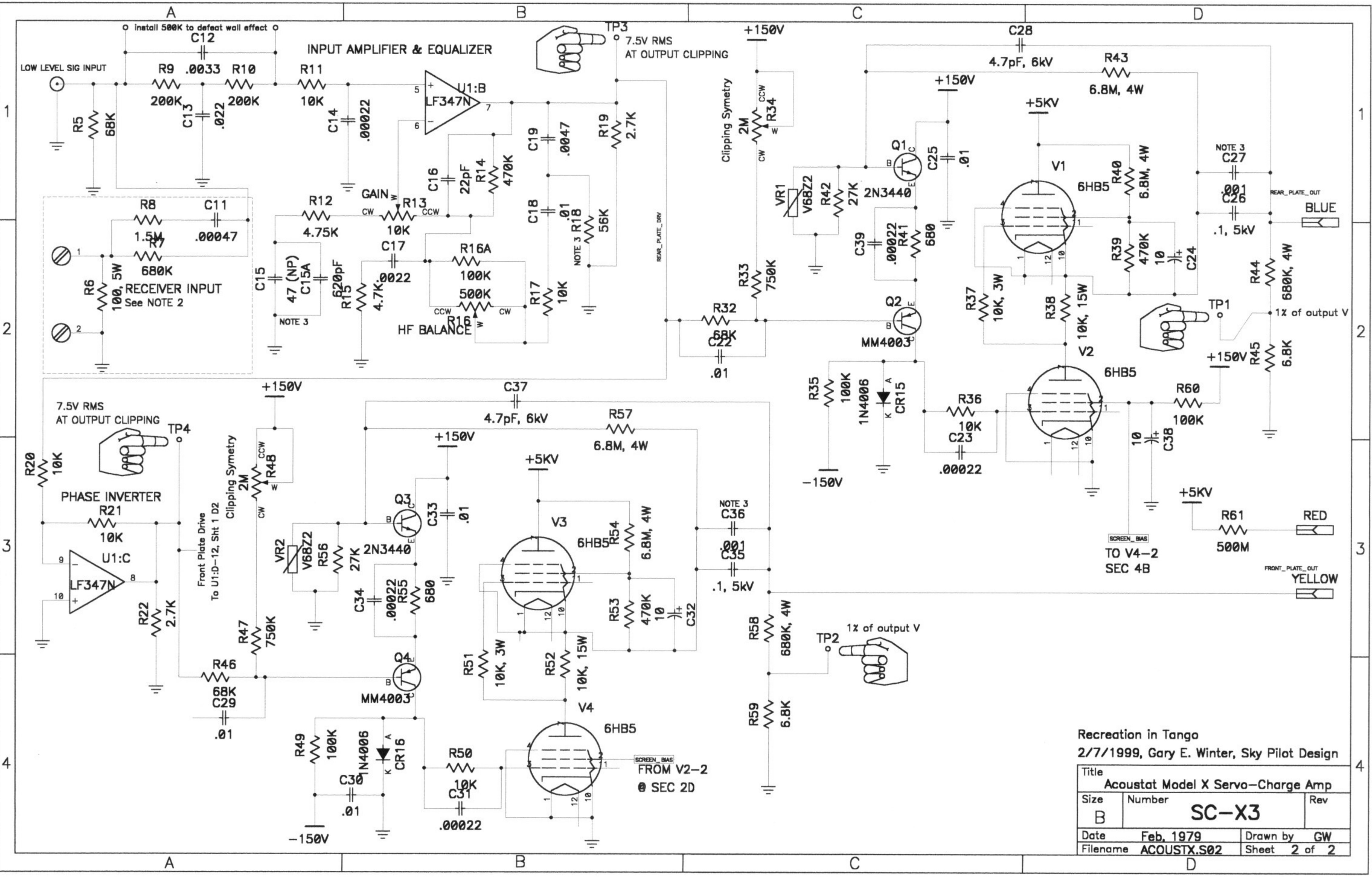
<u>SYMPTOMS</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>CURE</u>
Unit shuts down to standby, but comes back on immediately. or Unit will not shut down to standby mode. or Unit will not turn on from standby.	Defective IC or Arcing tube Defective IC, Q5 Transistor or bad Relay	A defective integrated circuit can cause this problem. The OP-11 device was found to be particularly prone to this rare problem. An arcing tube can also affect proper operation of the turn on circuitry. The offending tube will usually arc at the shutdown to standby point and bring back the amplifier to the full on condition. This tube can sometimes be spotted in a darkened room. The simplest solution is to replace all four tubes.
White noise in background below level of music	Leaky 2N3440 (Q1,Q3)	Be sure the noise isn't originating upline in the preamp or elsewhere by removing the input to the servo charge amplifier. If noise persists replace Q1 or Q3.
Amp distorts, weakened output sometimes accompanied by a low level hum.	Defective Q2,Q4, Q1 or Q3 transistor	Check/Replace defective transistor.
Intermittent drop in volume, about 50%, accompanied by low level hum.	Intermittently open junction mm4003 transistor (2N5416 on later units)	Replace Q2 and Q4

SYMPTOMSCAUSECURE

Unit turns on from stand-by
due to AC line surges
sometimes induced by an
air conditioner, fluorescent
lights etc.

Earlier production amplifiers
are sometimes found to do this.
Eliminate the problem by
Installing a 680 ohm resistor
in series with the cathode
(banded end) of CR14. this
resistor is factory installed
beginning with s/n 1700.

End



Recreation in Tango		
2/7/1999, Gary E. Winter, Sky Pilot Design		
Title		
Acostat Model X Servo-Charge Amp		
Size	Number	Rev
B	SC-X3	
Date	Feb. 1979	Drawn by GW
Filename	ACOUSTX.S02	Sheet 2 of 2

