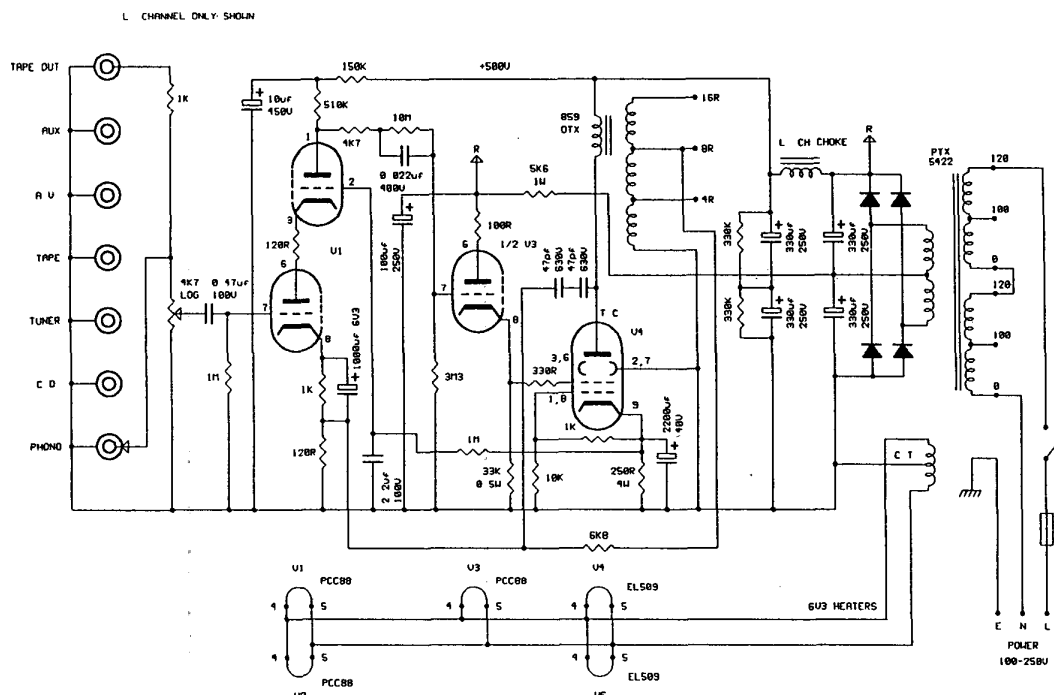


YOSHINO 859 ENHANCED TRIODE MODE SE AMPLIFIER



Tim de Paravicini on the 859:

I get fed up with having to defend my use of 519 type tubes, so I am not going to get into that discussion now.

The idea for the 859 stretches back a couple of years. I originally planned to launch it shortly after the Yoshino XXXA (single ended 845, £24,000) and Yoshino XXXB (single ended transistor, £20,000). I decided to see the reaction of the mainstream magazines before launching the more affordable 859 single ended amplifier. It became clear that no one was terribly interested in the B solid state version, the lighthouse 845 got all the attention. This despite the fact that the circuits are near identical, only the chassis layout is different. On the A. most of the heat is radiated by the tube directly into the air. The B had to have a massive heatsink as a chassis to sink the 100 watts of dissipation by the single transistor. The tube version is more expensive because of the very high B+ rail.

The output valve configuration of the 859 is somewhat unusual. The normal control grid is tied to the Kathode to make it an invisible element. The signal is fed into the screen grid. I call this Enhanced Triode Mode. I do not want to insult SP readers intelligence. I think they can work it out by themselves. Standard triode mode (with the screen grid strapped to the anode) was tried but did not give the same linearity of final solution. The design brief was 10 watts with minimal distortion. At 10 watts, THD is below 1% 20-20,000 Hz. Maximum output is 15 W, both channels driven. Bandwidth at low levels is 3-60,000 Hz.

It is not, and has never been my style to copy anyone else. I innovate, not copy. There was no way I was prepared to launch a 300B amplifier. Just about everything has been done with this tube. During my time with Lux, in Osaka in the mid-70's, I had first hand experience with original circuits and designs. That was then and this is now. To launch a 300B amplifier would be retrograde.

I do not deny the tube's strengths, but in current Chinese production (with one or two very expensive options) the quality is dire. They neither measure like an original Western Electric, nor sound like one. For the DIY enthusiast, it's OK. You can spend time sorting through the rot to find the good items. If the tube blows in a month's time, you can put it down to experience. If you're lucky, you may even find a brace of new old stock.

I have a reputation for bullet proof reliability and better than the rest build quality. If you drop an 859 on the floor, worry about the floorboards not the amplifier. I am not prepared to put my reputation on the line for designs that were second-hand knowledge in Japan 20 years ago, just because it is the current flavour of the month in the West. Most Japanese chose to build their own 300B amplifiers. Most sort parts from the Akihabara and build a complete custom amplifier. Even kit makers leave the final tube purchase to the customer.

The 859 is aimed squarely at those who enjoy good sound, reliability, build & looks. With its heavy chromed brass front panel, gold knobs, and near 20 kilo weight, I think it is a very good value product. The demand for it has taken by surprise. At this time (late December 1994), I have an 8 week waiting list!

Angelina

859 STEREO INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER
PRICED FROM £999 IN KIT FORM

— AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM —
MELLOTONE ACOUSTICS POST OFFICE BOX 67 WIGAN LANCS WN2 3AG UK
TEL (44) 01942 57525 FAX (44) 01942 525861