

HAFLER PREAMP POWER & CAPACITIVE CATCHUP

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO it was called to my attention that the latest Hafler DH-101 preamps have a different power supply. This revised supply uses a pair of 301 op amps with two pairs of transistors for the plus and minus voltage regulators. At that time I knew that an article was upcoming in *TAA* on using high-speed op amps for low output impedance power supplies, so I thought that Hafler was really keeping up with state-of-the-art.

I wrote to the company, asking if I could purchase the new power supply circuit board for my older preamp, but I received a reply that said the "new power supply board does not offer sonic improvement. Designed for parts availability." I find this rather hard to understand since the new board uses about five times as many parts, and I have not heard of any shortage of 7818 and 7819 three-terminal voltage regulators. I would appreciate any reader's comments on this.

At the present time I'm not using the Hafler power supply anyway but an out-board unit similar to Walt Jung and Dave White's PAT-5 power supply (*TAA* 3/1979). If it can supply enough current, I intend to try the Sulzer power supply (*TAA* 2/1980). [It can.—Ed.]

I also have been replacing every capacitor I can find with polypropylene or polystyrene capacitors. So far I've done head amps, preamps, power amps, active crossover and passive tweeter crossovers. [See Jung & Marsh *Audio* Feb, March 1980.] Bass response is deeper and tighter, midrange is cleaner, and treble is smoother, faster and more detailed. Dynamic range seems greater. Stereo imaging is deeper, with sounds better defined in a clearer, cleaner space. Room ambience in recordings is much more apparent. Capacitor changes are very worthwhile, assuming the rest of one's system has enough resolving power to discern these improvements in sonic detail.

MAX KNITTLE

Engineering Technician
Western Washington University
Department of Physics & Astronomy
Bellingham, WA 98225