Paramour

dehora status

f/1.7/96: Sold out! Thanks for making the Paramour one of our most popular kits for the past 3 years. We will keep this page active for archival reference. It is a great reference for well-engineered and well-designed tube amps.

A legacy of great sound at great price - just $599 - Now shipping with Scottit monoplate 2A3s

The Paramour is a pair of single ended parallel 2A3 monoblocks. Everything is included in the kit except solder. Price is $599 Yes, you read that right, $599 for a pair of single ended parallel 2A3 amps, with tubes.

Our head of research and development, Paul Snyder, worked hard to give us an elegant design. The amp uses a 12AT7 tube with our unique CRS active load as the driver. The driver stage is R-C coupled to the tubes. The 2A3 operates in parallel feed output mode. The power supply uses obsolete soft recovery rectifiers and a C-R-C filter. Metal film resistors and polypropylene capacitors are used throughout the signal path. Silver wire is used in the critical signal path. Point to point wiring is used throughout. The chassis is a beautiful brushed aluminum, and the tubes are mounted on ceramic sockets. Our amplifiers are designed to be easy to build. Even a novice can build this amplifier. The Paramour also features a high quality Scottit monoplate transformer. This transformer is the best we have found for the price. It has a wide frequency response and extended bass response. The Scottit monoplate also has a high quality Scottit choke which extends the resolution and musicality that a single ended directly heated triode like the 2A3 is capable of producing, at a price that is about half that of the next closest competitor.

The 2A3 is actually an 18W tube, but we have found that it sounds better at lower power levels. We have rated the Paramour at 5 watts per channel and 4 ohms, and the amp can also be configured for 16 ohm speakers. We recommend speakers of 90-dB sensitivity for serious listening with all kinds of music. 93 dB speakers are satisfactory for less stringent requirements. Speaker: Jim Rogers has a pair of Klipsch Cornwalls that he uses with his Paramour. Jim says, "I've been listening to my Paramour for about a month now, and I can't say enough about how good it sounds. It's a great amp! Rather than being a "tube" amplifier, it is a high quality amplifier that happens to use tubes. The Paramour sounds like the very good 300B amp I ve had. The paired output and CRC active load give the amp a remarkable sense of realism, bandwidth and lack of distortion, particularly considering the price.

Tim, a keyboard can build it!

This kit was designed from the get go as an introduction to the wonders of DIY audio and single ended sound. Construction is just plain easy. The design is so simple that there's just not much under the chassis. We've a reputation for the best assembly manuals in the business, and a detailed 40 page manual is included with this kit. Everything is included except the tube amp instructions and large tube photos of the finished amp from our website. Of course, the tubes are not included, but if you want to try a single ended triode, we have a wide selection of tubes to choose from. We've tested the Paramour with 45, 2A3, and 300B tubes. We recommend speakers of 90-dB sensitivity for serious listening with all kinds of music. 93 dB speakers are satisfactory for less stringent requirements. Speaker: Jim Rogers has a pair of Klipsch Cornwalls that he uses with his Paramour. Jim says, "I've been listening to my Paramour for about a month now, and I can't say enough about how good it sounds. It's a great amp! Rather than being a "tube" amplifier, it is a high quality amplifier that happens to use tubes. The Paramour sounds like the very good 300B amp I ve had. The paired output and CRC active load give the amp a remarkable sense of realism, bandwidth and lack of distortion, particularly considering the price.

You'll need a 20-W watt soldering iron and some solder, a rub wheelcover, some simple hand tools like a screwdriver, pliers, and a wire stripper, and some glue, sandpaper and your favorite beer for the celebration. Assembly time is about 4-6 hours. Our customers have reported that they like the Paramour at the picture above has had the transformers sprayed with Krylon flat black, and a clear polymer finish applied to the alder base. For some more extreme finishing ideas, look here and here

April 2001 - Paramour upgrades

We have decided to update the original circuit to incorporate the CRS active load on the driver stage. This will significantly decrease noise and hum levels and increase the linearity of the driver stage. The previous version is still available, but we will be selling the new version from now on. With the CRS installed the hum level is reduced by approximately a factor of two, to about 0dBV. Subjectively the CRS will also improve the transient speed and image localization of the amps. The change is not subtle and we feel that our customers will find the improvement significant.

CRS update to existing Paramour kits

We also offer the Paramour CRS upgrade kit to current owners of the original Paramour kit $49. Call 360-697-1936.

Need a proxy to go with your Paramour?

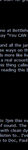
Frequently Asked Questions

Paramour Iron and Capacitor Upgrade Kit - Sold Out

The final run of this kit has been sold out. Thanks for your support!

dehora status

The Paramour Iron and Cap upgrade offers several cost effective improvements to the Paramour kit. The stock parallel output transformer is replaced with a custom kit with the Hammond 1750P parallel output transformer with greater inductance and double the bandwidth of the 1750A stock iron. The custom transformer comes with 4,8 and 16 ohm taps for easy matching to most speakers. To get the best performance possible the new output transformer is matched to a Magnetech BOP-15 plate loading choke. With 44 henries of inductance, the brass chained frame mounted BOP-15 choke is the same one used in our Scottit monoplate 2A3 amplifier. To complement the improved output stage, we have upgraded the Clarity Caps to the Clarity Cap Audiophile series. We recommend that you also upgrade the power supply capacitors, which are included in the kit as well. The stock plate loading choke is retained, thing needed to function as a power supply choke. The complete installation instructions are online, via the link below.



Paramour iron and cap upgrade assembly instructions

The result of adding this upgrade is improved bass response and power bandwidth, better resolution, and a more quiet background.

The upgraded Paramour amp shown here has also been upgraded with our Big Shad binding posts which can both be found on our Parts page.

Paramour Iron and Cap Upgrade Kit - two custom Bottlehead output transformers, two Magnetech BOP-15s, Clarity Caps and hardware, $119 plus shipping

Paramour Iron Upgrade Impressions

Paramours LIVE LARGE!!!!!!!!

Posted by margaretfand on December 12, 2004 at 07:35:01

I'm listening to the just finished Mozart as I type and I couldn't be more happy! Only 2 hours of break so I'm actually very amazed because I built them not the choke as follows:

Paramours Iron Upgrade Kit - Sold Out - Thanks for your support! Paramour Iron and Cap upgrade. Kit includes two custom Bottlehead output transformers, two Magnetech BOP-15s, Clarity Caps and hardware. Price is $119 plus shipping. I planned on doing it this way for some time because I wanted a clean wiring scheme. Upgrades to my Paramp have created quite a birds-nest!

Anyway, I have been very happy with the SE Paramp and it sounds very nice with Magnetech monoblocks in EEDP. Can't speak to bass because I bump but these things sound like they have 1,000 hours on them!

I have a busy Sunday ahead of me and for some reason I can't get out of my seat! Love this stuff.

Fred

Posted by Matts on November 15, 2003 at 12:32:54

I got the Paramour for me to work, my wife on her birthday a week and a half ago, installed it last weekend, and it's now well along the way breaking in. Good improvement across the board in the sound of the Paramour! Takes the bass to a whole new level! goes deeper, with lots more detail. You can hear the trowings of the basses in orchestral music, and really hear the plucking, etc. string bassist is plain. The attack and decay of the bass notes is very tight and realistic. The mids and high notes are also much clearer and better defined. Can clearly hear the difference between when the violins and flutes are doubling melodies in Mozart's 40th. Dynamics (which were already good) and vocals are much better. Everything's a big step up! Will have a pair of these for sure!

Also hearing lots of sounds in live recordings I didn't notice before. In Ahead Jam's "But Not Me" recorded live at the Pendleton (a classic), you can hear much more "crowd" noise in the background, and the sound of the band is much more "in the room" than before. Can hear the sound of the guitar bouncing off the back corner of the room, and I see people in the audience jiggling and moving around. Much more realistic than before.

One note on the value- right after installing the upgrade in one amp, with no break in and the original tubes that came with the kit, it sounded way better than the unmodified amp that had a Tubecrafted/Tesla 45 in it and a NOS RCA 2A3 in it. If you're going to go to the trouble, the upgrade is more cost effective than non-Russian tubes. However, the upgrade with the better tubes sounds that much better again! My evaluation relates to the new iron only, as I already had Autogram for interstage couplers, and Clarity Caps for parallel caps.

Doc and P.J. have done it again! If you don't have a birthday coming up, there's always Christmas...

back to Products

Paramour Impressions

f/ornyfive ZII / Paramour - Musical Ecstasy

posted by Jim Rogers on November 25, 2003 at 15:47:22

Being new to this whole world of tube based gear and having spent loads of money in the past on various SS receivers, amps, etc.; I figured it would be a good time to share with you my experience with the Paramour and the Scottit monoplate. I've been a member of this board for about a year and have read most of the posts here and have learned a great deal from you guys through some of the favorites of my live music collection. My current setup is a pair of slightly modified paramours (built Jan/Feb 03) and my recently completed Frankenstein ZII (finished last week)...I'm a big fan of Experience Music Life Monitors for speakers paired with a Pioneer fully discrete amp. DIY interconnects (Belden 8320) and DIY power cables (Belden 8000)...anyway I digress and get to the point. I'm a fan of music, including this my new hobby. Listening this my new hobby. Jim's wife and guitar from some late 70s JGB was about, "Jerry Garcia's guitar sounds like a musical instrument." I'm a fan of the music, not the equipment. I'm a fan of the high recordings, the attack and edge were vibrant/tone/rolling and you could hear the room ambiance. I'm a fan of the music, not the equipment.

Thanks Doc and everyone who's helped...I'm a happy convert! The weekend alone was worth all the money and effort...The iron and cap upgrade is next...then some DIY speakers...then a tubeAmp...what a fun journey!

Scott

Bright channel Paramour born 12/23/04

posted by Jim Rogers on December 23, 2003 at 06:49:09

Again, no buzz, no hum, no hiss. In fact, as I was letting it warm up I walked past the speaker and for a moment I thought that I had forgotten to turn on the amp - but I hadn't, it is just that quiet and clean. Listening to the Paramour is like having a pair of Klipsch Cornwalls with a tube amp. Bass is tight and well defined, mids are clear and detailed, highs are very nice, comparable to the left channel (didn't bring my ruler in today). The first 30 minutes of music may have seemed a bit disappointing (probably the Auricaps needs break-in requirement), but they have kicked in and are now very good. I'm a fan of the music, not the equipment. I'm a fan of the music, not the equipment. I'm a fan of the music, not the equipment