

OCTAVE

V 70 Class A

Owner's Manual

English

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations and thank you for choosing OCTAVE

V 70 Class A

You are now the owner of one of the world's most innovative and reliable amplifiers. Look after it, and it will provide you many years of listening pleasure.

You often hear people claim that tube amplifier design has not progressed for years. The operating principles of tubes have indeed been documented extensively and are well known to amplifier designers. Of course, the same can be said for transistor amplifiers.

However, advances in both technologies are still possible thanks to the development of innovative and improved components, our greater appreciation of the fundamental principles and, of course, deeper and more advanced insights into the interaction of amplifier and loudspeaker. With tube amplifiers in particular, a general reluctance to depart from the classic circuit designs has not done the technology any favors. Although today's loudspeakers and source equipment provide better performance than ever before, they also present greater demands on amplifiers. Modern sound reproduction equipment delivers a level of performance at a price that simply would not have been possible 20 or even 10 years ago.

These advances have been achieved through the application of the latest technological developments as they become available and affordable. OCTAVE has specialized in tube amplification for the past 30 years, during which time we have developed a number of innovative technologies that have earned us a reputation as one of the leaders in the field.

Here's wishing you many happy hours of musical pleasure!



Andreas Hofmann

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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE V 70 Class A

Class-A. A promise that has fuelled the highest expectations in the audiophile scene since the very beginning. For most, Class-A simply stands for pure sound, but often enough it has been coupled with limited output power.

In short, a “**Class-A concept**” technically means a higher quiescent current setting and therefore has less distortion (almost only second-order harmonics, referred to as k_2), but also a limited full modulation with less power. Push-pull concepts, on the other hand, can give 4-16 times the power compared to Class-A, but struggle with inharmonic distortions (i.e. odd harmonics k_3 and k_5). Two opponents, if you will: sound versus power. Of course, Andreas Hofmann was tempted to combine both concepts into something new.

The result of many years of development is a typical Octave amplifier, the V 70 Class A, a Class A push-pull amplifier in a pentode circuit.

For this, an absolutely unique and completely new class-A technology had to be developed:

The Dynamic Bias Control

Dynamic Bias Control (DBC) means that A. Hofmann has found ways to dynamically shift the limited dynamic range, and thus the limited power of the Class-A-concept, according the power requirements. The development of the dynamic operating point setting (DBC) made a self-regulating Class-A-amplifier possible with approximately twice the output power of 50 W RMS, with up to 70 W peak power. This technology combines the tonal purity of Class A with the dynamics and performance of push-pull A/B technology.

The modern concept of a Class-A push-pull amplifier in a pentode circuit enables the Class-A virtues to be guaranteed across the entire frequency response up to maximum modulation. The enormous power, with up to 70 watts of music power, is significantly above the output level of conventional Class A amplifiers and is more than sufficient to drive virtually any loudspeaker.

This new integrated amplifier is equipped with a symmetrical input as standard and if a turntable is to be connected, the optional phono board (either MC or MM) offers the ideal solution.

The V 70 class A uses an **automatic bias circuit**. The amplifier adjusts itself to the tube used and requires no further adjustments. The proven BIAS measurement with the colored LED lights is still used. However, this is only used to check that the four tubes are working properly.

Similar to the other top models from Octave, the V 70 Class A features the **power selector**: power High and Low, in order to be able to optimally adapt the amplifier to different power tubes. Due to the high output power in Class A operation, a KT120 or KT150 tube must be used for power High. KT88 or 6550 variants should be operated at power Low. Then there are still about 15 W Class A and 25 W peak Power available.

Characteristic technologies from Octave are used, such as **power management** with electronic monitoring of the working conditions, along with the unique **ECO mode**, the modern home cinema bypass circuit and the practical, regulated preamplifier output (which allows the direct connection of a subwoofer). Our special power supply technology protects the amplifier against mains disturbances.

Growing fluctuations in the network and high frequency mains disturbances no longer cause sonic fluctuations.

This makes the Class-A tube amplifier technology even easier and more flexible to use and you can relax with the Octave V 70 Class A to concentrate on the essentials: relishing in pure musical enjoyment.

2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

2.1. Before you begin

Before using the V 70 Class A for the first time, remove the grille and install the power tubes! (see chapter 3.2 „Removing the grille“). Mount the grille again before switching ON the V 70 Class A. Operating the amplifier without its protective grille is dangerous and not recommended.

In case of damage: disconnect the plug from the mains supply

Never use an amplifier that is damaged or faulty. Make sure it has been labeled as defective and that it cannot be used until it has been repaired by a qualified service engineer. Make sure that there is easy access to the IEC socket and power cable.

Do not open the case



There are dangerously high voltages and hot tubes inside this equipment. To avoid a burn or the risk of electric shock, never allow anyone except qualified personnel to open the case or remove the grille.

Service and maintenance

For reasons of safety, please ensure that servicing, repairs and other modifications to OCTAVE equipment are carried out only by a qualified technician. Defective fuses should also only be replaced by a qualified technician. Always replace fuses with ones of the same type and rating. If your amplifier requires servicing, please ship or take your equipment directly to OCTAVE or to one of our authorized service centers.

Symbols used in these instructions

	<p><u>Caution!</u></p> <p>Text passages marked with this symbol contain important information which must be observed if the machine is to operate safely and without problems</p>
	<p>This symbol marks text passages which provide supplementary notes and background information; they are intended to help the user understand how to get the best out of the machine</p>

Before connecting

Make sure that the voltage of your amplifier matches your local supply voltage.

Grounding

This amplifier is a protection class 1 device with an earth conductor. To avoid the risk of electric shock in the event of a fault, the unit must be grounded. To do this, use the power cable supplied with the amplifier.

2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

2.2. Placement

1. Location

OCTAVE equipment is designed strictly for use in a dry domestic environment. Do not use it in the open air or in damp environments!

Never place plants or liquid-filled containers on your OCTAVE equipment. Take care to avoid dropping objects or spilling liquids into the case. Should this happen, remove the mains plug immediately and have your amplifier checked by a qualified service technician.

Condensation may form if the amplifier is taken from a cold environment into a warm one. If you do this, wait until the amplifier has reached room temperature and is dry before switching it on.

Avoid installing the unit close to sources of heat such as radiators or anywhere that may be in direct sunlight.

Do not operate the unit near flammable materials, gases or vapors. Avoid areas where there may be heavy accumulations of dust or where the unit may be subject to mechanical vibration.

Place your OCTAVE amplifier on a stable, level surface.

2. Grille



Never operate the amplifier without the protective grille in place.

3. Ventilation

Make sure that your amplifier has an adequate flow of air around it. If you intend to install your equipment into a cupboard or on a wall shelf unit, ensure that there is at least a ten centimeter (4 inch) gap between the ventilation slots and the walls all around the amplifier. The rear panel of cupboards should have ventilation holes to prevent heat build-up. Do not rest the equipment on a soft surface such as carpet or foam sheeting.

2.3. Warranty

OCTAVE can only guarantee the safety, reliability and performance of this unit if modifications and repairs are carried out by specialized personnel and when the amplifier is operated in accordance with the instructions contained in this manual.

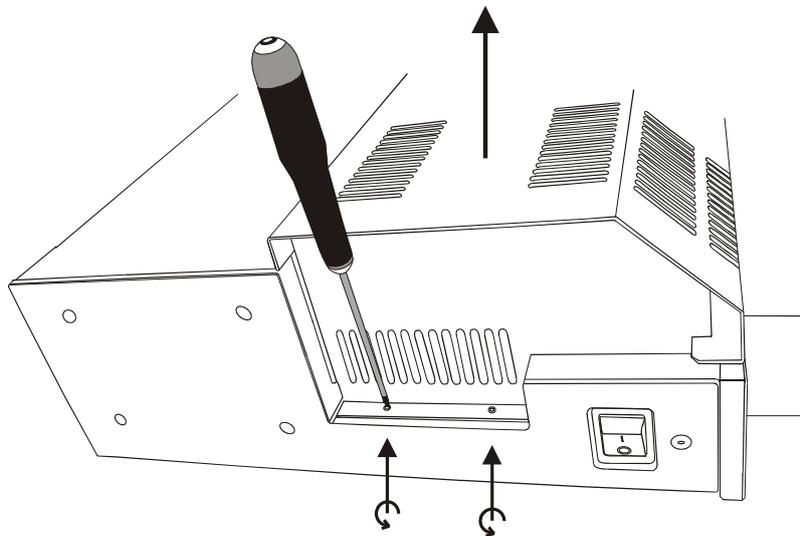
3. GETTING STARTED

3.1. Unpack and check the contents of the box

Scope of delivery	
<input type="checkbox"/>	V 70 Class A
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 set power tubes with tube layout diagram
<input type="checkbox"/>	Power cord (3-core cable with 3-pin plug)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remote control
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 x 2,5 mm Allen key for removing the cover
<input type="checkbox"/>	Owner's manual with certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cloth and gloves

3.2. Removing the grille

Never operate the amplifier without the protective grille in place.



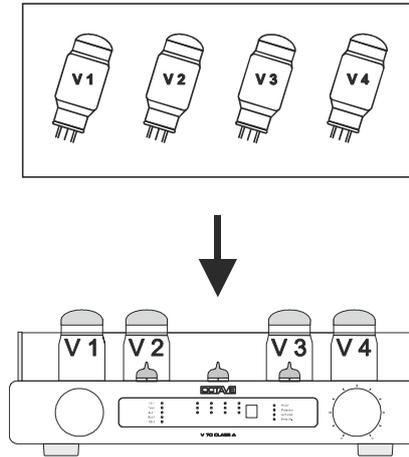
Procedure

- ①  For your own safety, make sure that the amplifier is not connected to power outlet.
- ② Completely remove the 4 hexagonal screws using the Allan key supplied. There are 2 screws on each side.
- ③ Carefully pull the grille upward to remove.

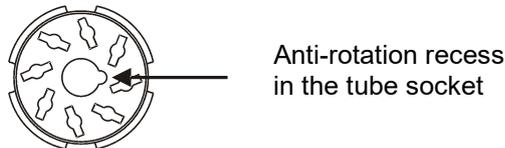
3. GETTING STARTED

3.3. Installing the power tubes

The power tubes are in a separate box in the tube compartment.



Insert the power tubes into their sockets as shown on the tube layout. Ensure that you correctly locate the anti-rotation lug on each of the tubes.



Reinstall the cover grille. (reverse order of 3.2.)

3.4. Switching on for the first time – the Soft-Start feature

The V 70 Class A is equipped with a multi-stage soft start turn-on protection circuit that significantly extends the lifespan of components and tubes by protecting against stresses caused by high inrush currents when switching on.

Procedure	
<p>①</p> <p>Ecomode</p>  <p>Eco off Eco on Amp off</p>	<p>Check that the Ecomode switch on the rear panel is in the "Eco off" position.</p>
<p>②</p>	<p>Connect the V 70 Class A to the mains. (On new units, this ECOMODE switch is set to "off" at the factory).</p>
<p>③</p>	<p>Switch on the V 70 Class A using the amplifier's mains power on/off switch. Some LEDs will illuminate, depending on the position of the input rotary switch. In any case the Power LED (indicates that the unit is switched on) and the Soft-Start LED will be lit. The Soft-Start LED will extinguish 20 – 30 seconds later once the unit has booted up. The V 70 Class A is now ready for work.</p>

3. GETTING STARTED

3.5. Checking the power tubes (BIAS)

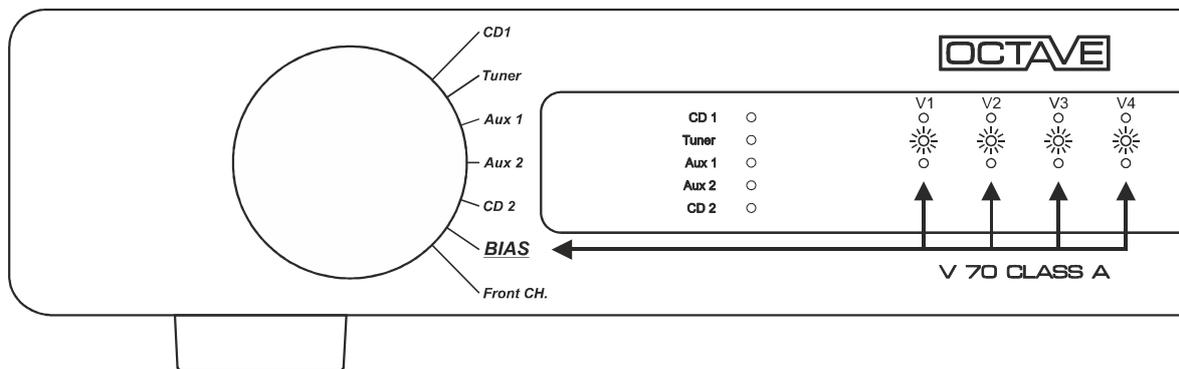
The V 70 Class A has an **auto-bias device**, which means that you no longer have to adjust the quiescent current of the tubes yourself. The four power tubes adjust themselves to the correct quiescent current (BIAS) due to the Class A circuit concept. The quiescent current remains constant even with aging of the end tubes.

Note

If the tubes need to be replaced, great importance should be attached to a well-matched tube set due to the auto-bias function.

In order to check whether the tubes are all working properly, there is a control option, the BIAS control display that indicate the correct BIAS with LEDs.

Turn the mode selector knob clockwise to position 6 = BIAS. The input LEDs will extinguish.



Five LEDs will now illuminate: The power LED and the 4 BIAS LEDs in the center of the display, one for each power tube. If the amplifier is still cold, the LEDs will initially illuminate "yellow".



Please wait five to ten minutes.

After an additional 5 minutes, the BIAS control LEDs will change from yellow to green. This indicates the correct bias and the unit is ready. If you notice any irregularity in the display please refer to chapter 7.2.

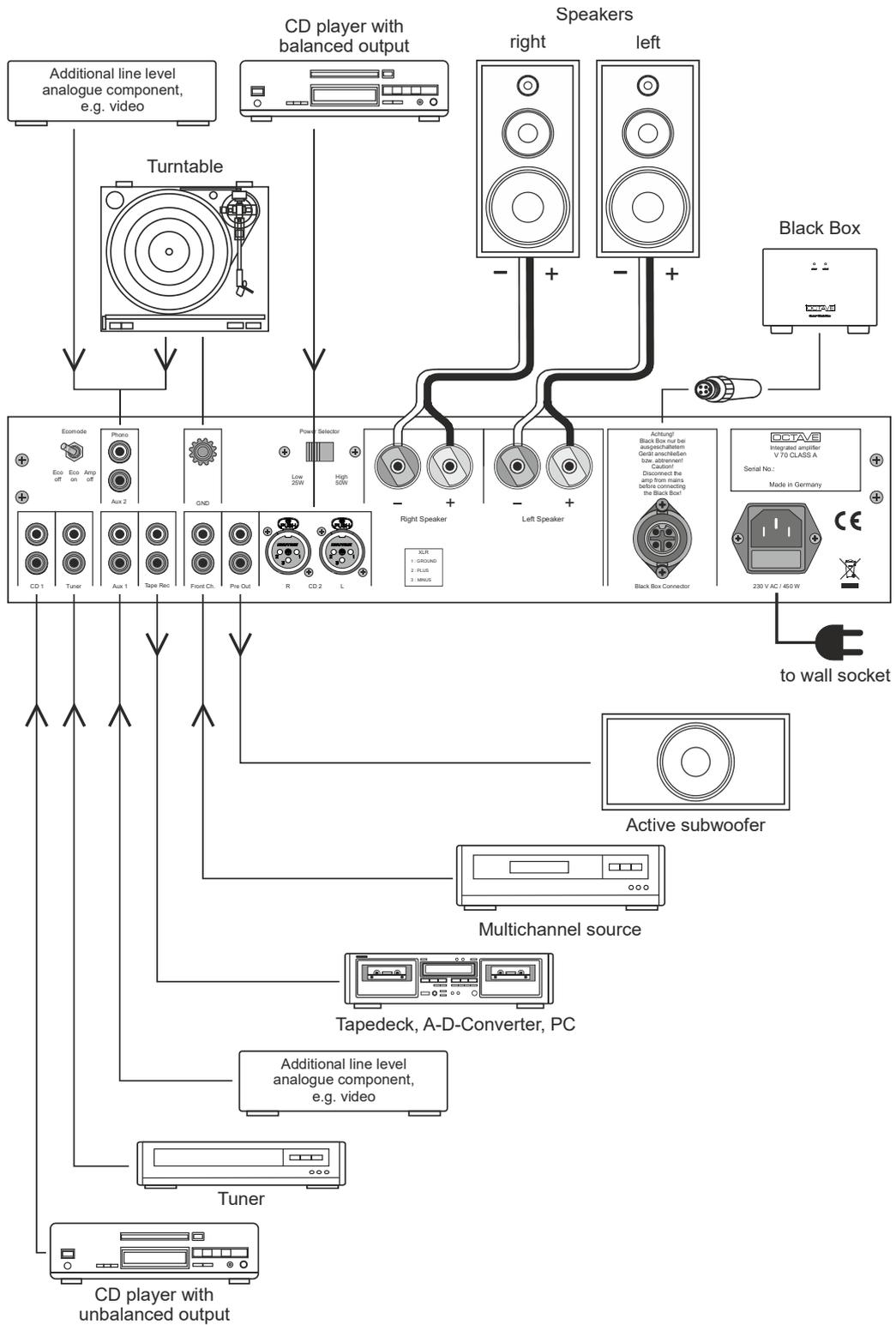
3.6. Connecting other components

Procedure

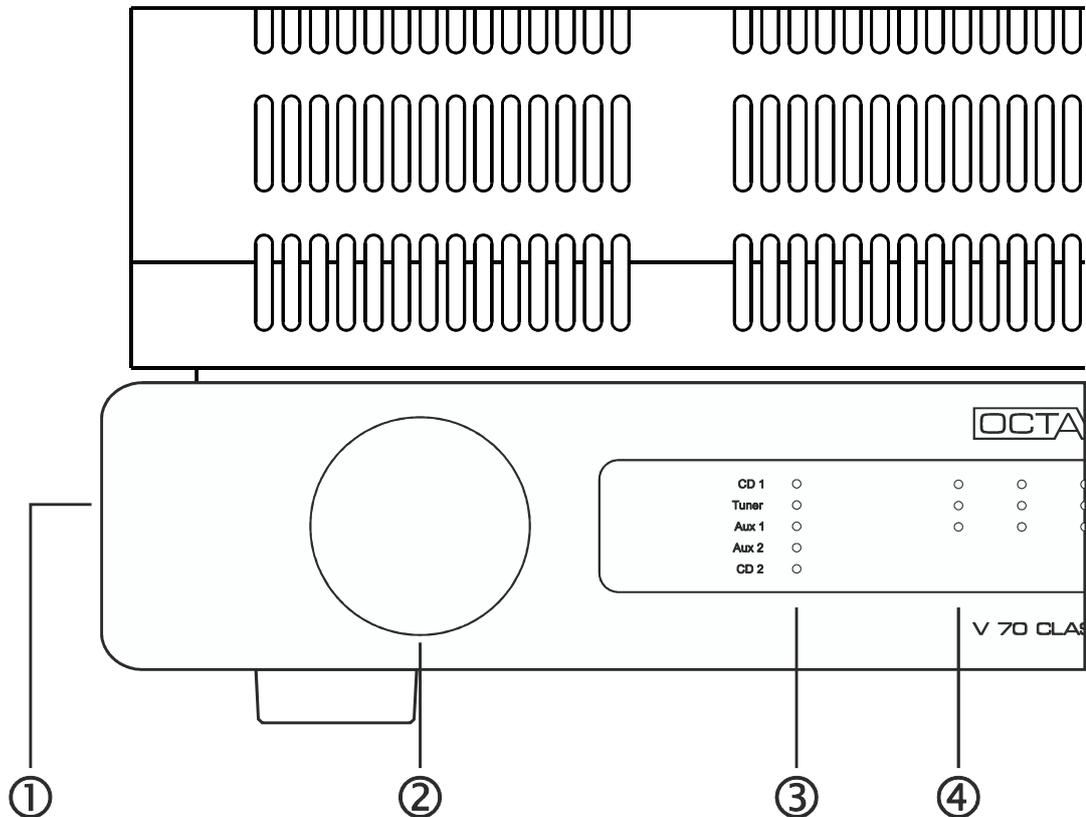
- ① Be sure to switch off the V 70 Class A again!
- ② Connect the other components in your system to the appropriate sockets on the rear of the V 70 Class A (see chapter 5 "Rear panel connections". See also chapter 3.7. "Connection options: overview").
- ③ Check that the switch positions on the front and rear of the amplifier are in their recommended settings.
- ④ Switch on the V 70 Class A using the on/off switch and wait until the Soft-Start LED extinguishes. Now you can play music.

3. GETTING STARTED

3.7. Connection options: overview

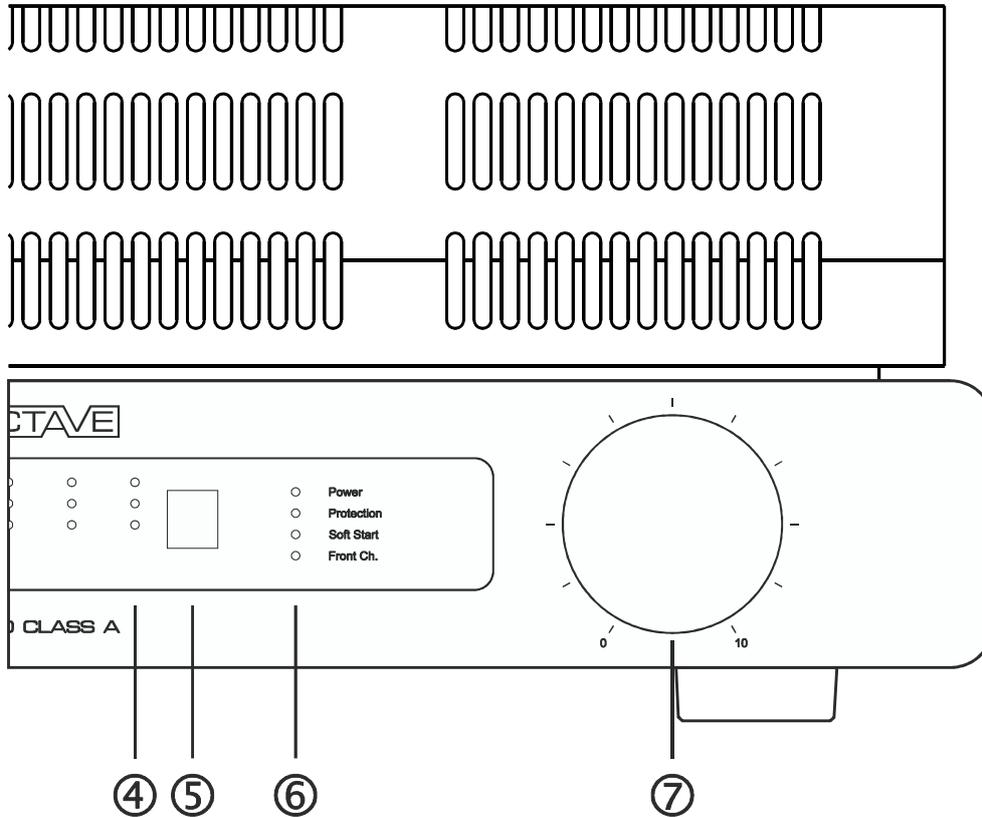


4. CONTROLS – THE FRONT PANEL



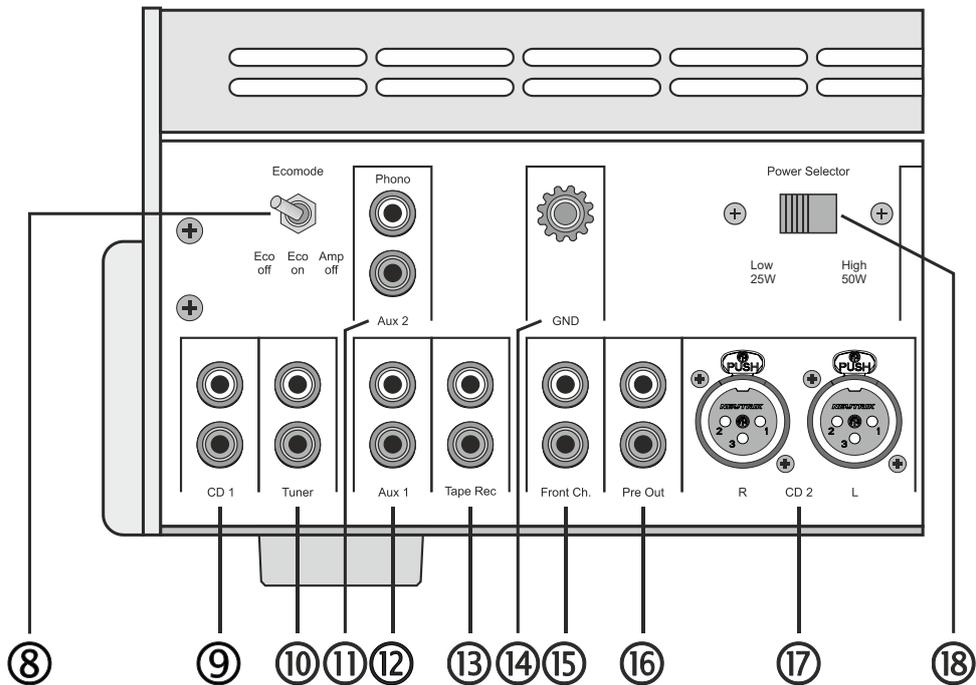
Legend	
① Power switch	0 = off; 1 = on. Power LED and Soft-Start LED illuminate. The Soft-Start LED extinguishes after the start-up period of 20 - 30 seconds.
② Input selector	This is used to select the desired input signal. A blue LED indicates the selected input in the display.
	Pos. 1: CD 1 RCA line level input for CD, SACD and similar.
	Pos. 2: Tuner RCA line level input for tuner, etc.
	Pos. 3: Aux 1 RCA line level input for video, etc.
	Pos. 4: Aux 2 RCA line level input for video, etc.
	Pos. 5: CD 2 XLR line level input for CD, SACD or similar
	Pos. 6: The electronic BIAS measurement system is activated (see chapter 7.2).
	Pos. 7: Front Ch. Multichannel input. In this mode, the V 70 Class A functions as a two-channel power amplifier. The volume control is bypassed (see chapter 6.5). The record output is switched off in this position.
③ LED indicators	Indicating the active input
④ Bias adjustment	LED display of the quiescent current of the output tubes V1 and V2.

4. CONTROLS – THE FRONT PANEL



Legend		
④ BIAS adjustment	LED display of the quiescent current of the output tubes V3 and V4.	
⑤ Remote control receiver	To ensure optimum operation of the IR remote control, do not cover this window.	
⑥ Status indicators	Power	Indicates that the unit is switched on.
	Protection	Red LED lights up when the electronic protection system has switched off the amplifier due to an error (see chapter 6.2).
	Soft-start	Lights up during the soft-start process immediately after switch-on. This LED extinguishes after about 20 – 30 seconds when soft-start has been completed (see chapter 6.3).
	Front Ch.	Illuminates when multichannel-bypass function is selected (see chapter 6.5).
⑦ Volume control	Remote controlled motorized potentiometer.	

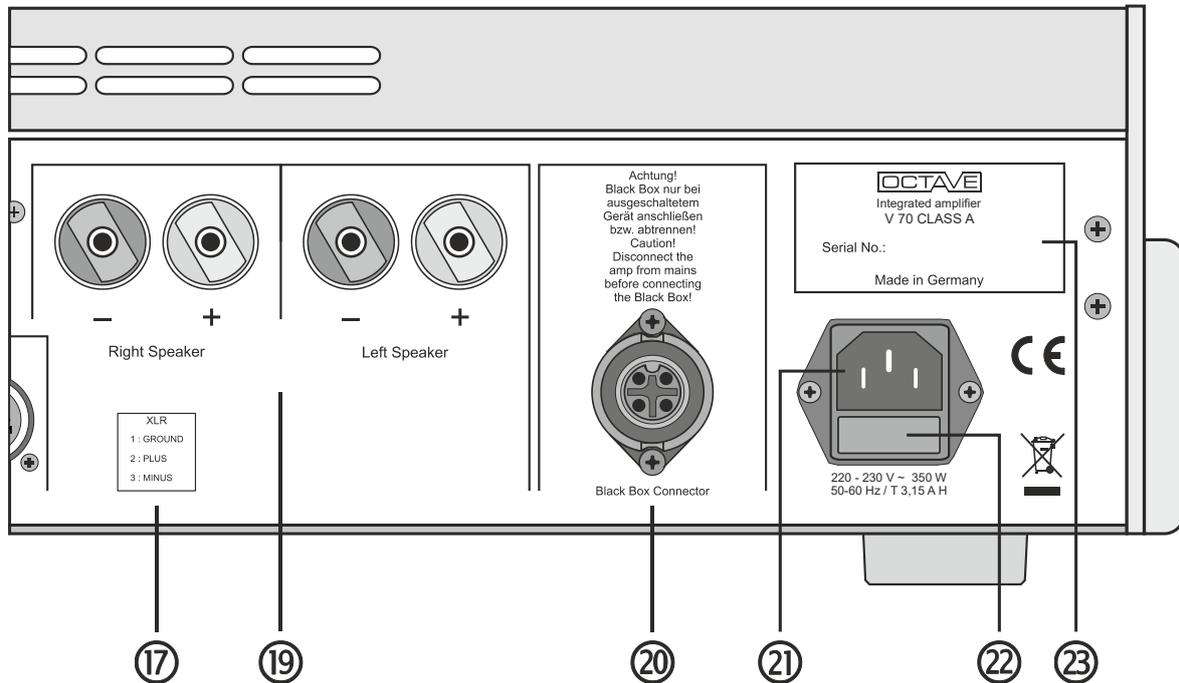
5. CONNECTIONS – THE REAR PANEL



Legend			
8	Ecomode	 Ecomode Eco off Eco on Amp off	Eco off: Ecomode automatic is off. Eco on: Ecomode automatic is on. Amp off: The power stage of the amplifier is off (see chapter 6.4).
9	CD 1	CD line level input, RCA	
10	Tuner	Tuner line level input, RCA	
11	AUX 2	RCA line level input for Video etc. or MM/MC input with Phono option	
12	AUX 1	RCA line level input for Video, etc.	
13	Tape Rec	Record output for tape or DAT	
14	GND	Ground connector for Turntable	
15	Front Channel	Input for the front channel of a multichannel receiver / DVD player (see chapter 6.5).	
16	Pre Out	Regulated preamp output for active subwoofer, etc. (see chapter 6.6).	
17	CD 2	CD balanced line level input, XLR	
18	Power Selector	Sliding switch to adjust the output power of the V 70 Class A (see chapter 6.1).	

For the inputs, the left channel is white (upper row of sockets) and the right channel is red (lower row of sockets).

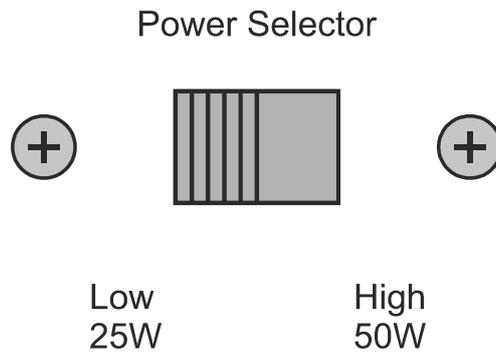
5. CONNECTIONS – THE REAR PANEL



Legend		
⑰	CD 2	Pin configuration for XLR connectors (CD line level input, XLR)
⑲	Loudspeaker outputs	Speaker connection terminals. Red = positive terminal, Black = negative terminal. The negative speaker terminal is connected to ground
⑳	(Super) Black Box connector 	The (Super) Black Box is an outboard power supply capacitance upgrade for the power amplifier section (see chapter 10). You must switch off the V 70 Class A using the power switch before connecting and disconnecting the Black Box!
㉑	AC supply socket	IEC socket with integrated fuse holder. The fuse is located in a pullout compartment underneath the socket. You can open the fuse compartment after removing the mains plug.
㉒	Fuse	For 220/230 V: 3.15 A slow-blow H size 5 x 20 mm For 240 V: 3.15 A slow-blow H size 5 x 20 mm For 115/120 V: 6.3 A slow-blow H size 5 x 20 mm For 100 V: 6.3 A slow-blow H size 5 x 20 mm
㉓	Model identification plate	Model and serial number

6. ADVANCED FUNCTIONS

6.1. Power Selector, alternative output tubes



Position „HIGH“: KT120, KT150
 Position „LOW“: KT88, 6550

The Power Selector allows adjusting the V 70 Class A in accordance to the output tubes. Position HIGH is reserved for KT120 and (with limitation) KT150 tubes. In the HIGH Position the V 70 Class A is able to deliver up to 2 x 50 W RMS Output Power. The slightly weaker tubes type KT88 or 6550 can be used in the position LOW. In this position the maximum output power is limited to 2 x 25 W to avoid overloading these tubes.



Tubes of Type 6L6, KT66, 5881, EL519, EL156 and KT170 are not suitable for the V 70 Class A and can even damage the device
 Please turn OFF the mains push button, before switching the Power Selector switch.
 If the tubes need to be replaced, great importance should be attached to a well matched tube set due to the auto-bias function.

6. ADVANCED FUNCTIONS

6.2. Protection

The V 70 Class A features a comprehensive electronic monitoring and protection system. This system switches the V 70 Class A off automatically if an overcurrent occurs in the power section.

The purpose of the protection system is to protect the device from consequential damage caused by overloading of any kind and to protect the power tubes against overcurrent caused by overloading and short-circuiting the loudspeaker cables.

The red "Protection" LED lights up in (No. [6] rear panel) to indicate that the protection system has tripped.



The amplifier will not play music once the protection system has tripped and you will not be able to check the BIAS.

The BIAS LEDs will show "yellow" for each of the four output tubes.

If a Black Box or a Super Black Box is connected to the V 70 Class A, the front panel (operate) LED of the Black Box / Super Black Box will go out. If the Super Black Box is connected, tripping the protection system will automatically activate the discharge circuit of the (Super) Black Box (see chapter 10).

The following conditions can cause the protection system to trip:

- Overdriving the V 70 Class A to excessive levels or with excessive levels of low frequency.
- A speaker cable short circuit while the speakers are being driven at high listening levels.
- A fault in one or more of the output tubes.
- A fault in one of the preamp tubes which overloads the affected channel.

Once the protection system has cut in, the only way you can turn the V 70 Class A back on, is to turn the on/off switch off and then on again. Allow the unit two minutes to cool down before switching it back on. If possible, identify and eliminate the cause of the problem (see chapter 11 "Troubleshooting").

If it is not clear what has caused the protection system to trip, we recommend that you check the BIAS before using the amplifier again. Tube faults can result in widely varying BIAS settings. When these settings exceed a particular value they can cause the protection system to trip.

6.3. Soft-Start

The V 70 Class A input and output tube heaters as well as its high-voltage rails are logic controlled to ensure that the conduction of the output tubes as well as input stage voltages are constantly monitored and controlled by the **Power Management system** to protect the vital internal parts (tubes, rectifier, electrolytic caps, switches, etc.) against excessive turn-on current. This increases the lifetime not only of the tubes, but also the caps, while all power related components derive benefit through this system.

The Soft-Start is always activated within the first 20 - 30 seconds after the unit is switched on. During this time you cannot listen. The Soft-Start delay is indicated with the Soft-Start-LED.



During the Soft-Start-phase, verification of the correct BIAS is not possible. During the starting phase only the yellow minus LED of the respective output tube lights.

6. ADVANCED FUNCTIONS

6.4. Ecomode

The **Ecomode** serves to reduce heat and unnecessary power consumption when the unit is switched on but not in use. After approximately 10 minutes without receiving signal, the V 70 Class A Ecomode is activated, turning down the power. In this “sleep” mode, the V 70 Class A draws less than 20 W Idle current. Therefore the running unit produces no heat, because the heater voltage and the high voltage for the power amplifier section are switched off. When the music signal is once again sensed by the V 70 Class A, the Ecomode circuit will turn the unit back on, with a warm-up/start-up delay of approximately 60 seconds before the unit will operate.

The Ecomode also serves to increase the lifetime of the tubes, while having an added benefit of **improved safety** allowing the V 70 Class A owner a level of security against any problems when leaving the unit powered on. The Ecomode is a safety and energy-saving feature that automatically switches off the amplifier's tube circuitry during breaks of more than approximately 10 minutes.

Ecomode reduces the overall power consumption of the amplifier to under 20 W, compared with 190 W in normal operation. When detecting a signal, the V 70 Class A reactivates automatically and is ready for use again within 60 seconds.

Rear panel switch settings



Eco off: The Ecomode electronic is off, the amplifier is on.

Eco on: The Ecomode electronic is activated. Ecomode is signal-controlled; after an approximately 10-minute silence, Ecomode switches in automatically. The soft-start LED [6] indicates that the Ecomode was turning down the unit. As soon as the Ecomode circuit detects a input signal (from the CD player, for example) it will automatically power the V 70 Class A up. The process takes approximately 60 seconds, after which time the soft-start LED will extinguish to show that the V 70 Class A is ready for use.

Note:

If you switch on the V 70 Class A with Ecomode active, it will go through the start procedure. If it fails to detect a music signal, it will shut down after approximately 10 minutes.

As well as saving electricity, Ecomode has a number of other advantages:

- Extended tube life
 - Reduced heating of the whole unit
 - Increased passive safety if the unit is left on by mistake
- Ecomode is not the same as standby, however, because certain sections of the amplifier remain on.

Important!

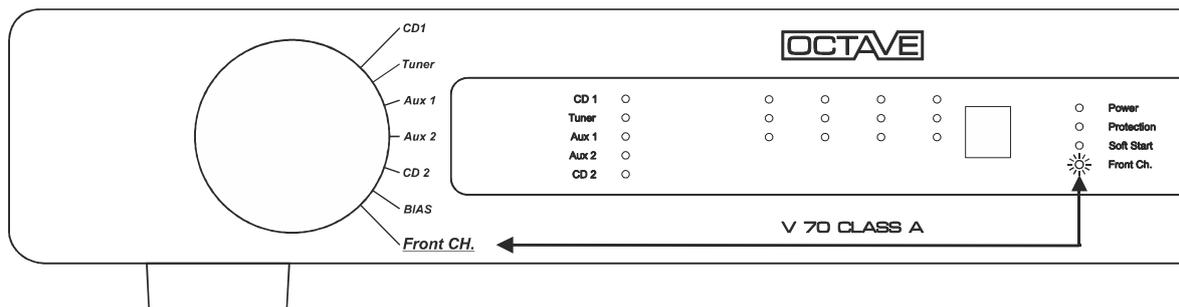
You cannot check the BIAS in Ecomode once the amplifier has powered down! The BIAS control then displays always yellow. Powered down during Ecomode is indicated by the soft-start-LED.

Amp off: The power section of the amplifier is off. This setting is recommended if only the input section is in use. For example, this would make sense by using the V 70 Class A as a distributor for a signal for an external headphone amplifier perhaps. Record-Out and regulated Pre-Out is active. The signal is not activating the Ecomode to turn on the power section.

6. ADVANCED FUNCTIONS

6.5. Front Channel

The Input labeled “Front Channel” is coupled with a relay that bypasses the volume regulator. In the “Front Channel” selector position, the V 70 Class A functions as a stereo amplifier. The overall Gain of the V 70 Class A is reduced to 20 dB in this position. The signal of the front channel input is not available on the record output.



6.6. Regulated preamplifier output – Pre-Out

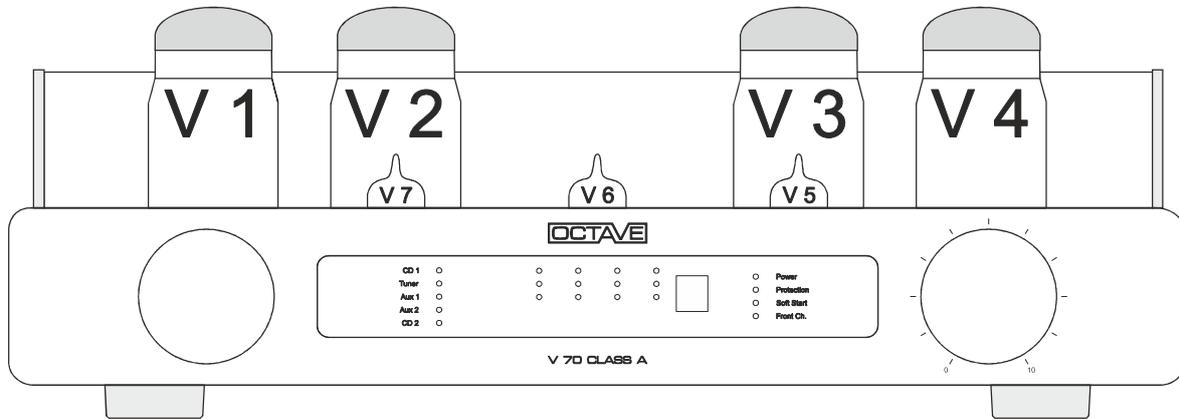
Using with an active subwoofer

The regulated preamplifier output is most commonly used to drive an active subwoofer. The Pre-Out is decoupled via a separate buffer to prevent the V 70 Class A against the load of the subwoofer. The input impedance of the subwoofer is therefore non-critical.

The Pre-Out does not have a separate muting function to prevent switch-on or switch-off plops from the V 70 Class A. This is not normally needed, however, since the active crossover in the subwoofer electronics will block unwanted DC and low frequency signals.

7. TUBES

7.1. Tube layout



Output tubes **V1 - V4** optional 6550 / KT88 / KT120 subject to availability
 V1 + V2 left channel
 V3 + V4 right channel

Driver tubes **V5** ECC83 (12AX7)
 V6 + V7 ECC81 (12AT7)

The pentode output stage topology of the V 70 Class A makes it possible to use of a variety of output tubes. Because the specification limits of the tubes are never exceeded in pentode mode, weaker output tubes may also be considered.

Output tubes can be divided into two broad classes – classic pentode output tubes for medium power amplifiers and modern, high performance pentodes for power amplifiers up to 60 W Class A output. However, the output power of the V 70 Class A does not increase through the use of more powerful tubes

Low Power, 25 W: output tubes:

KT88, 6550

High Power, 50 W: output tubes:

KT120, KT150

Note

Some tubes will fit into the sockets but will still not work with the V 70 Class A – such as the EL509/519 or KT170, for example. Low Power tubes like 6L6, KT66 or 5881 are not recommended. If the tubes need to be replaced, great importance should be attached to a well-matched tube set due to the auto-bias function. The tubes should preferably have the same or a similar value.

If a tube fails, we recommend always replacing a matched pair of tubes for each channel

7. TUBES

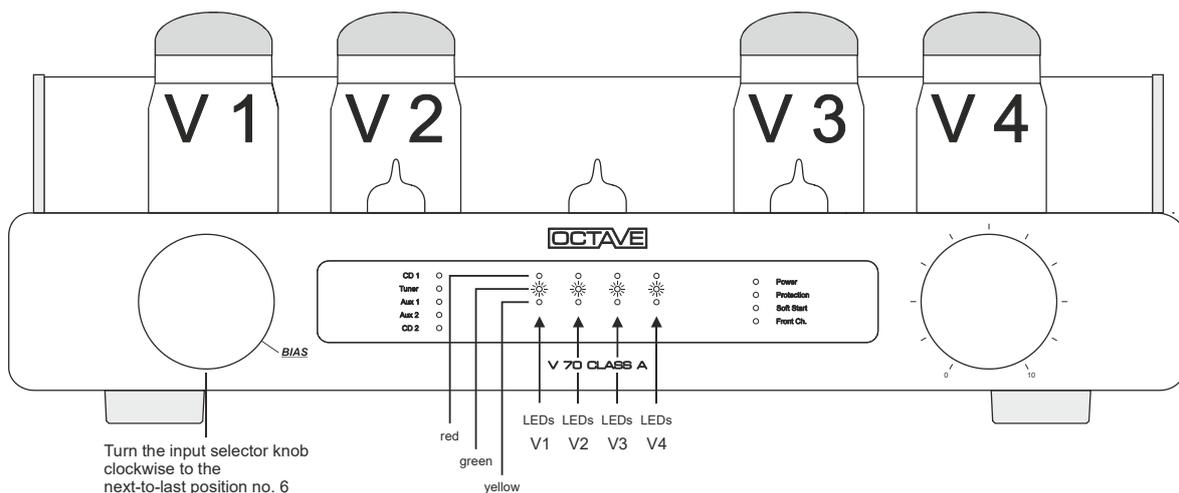
7.2. BIAS Control Display

The quiescent current of the power tubes is controlled with the BIAS measuring device. The correct BIAS setting of all four power tubes is important for the sound quality of the power amplifier and the life of the tubes. It guarantees consistent sound quality over the entire life of the power tubes.

Real Class A concepts do not require a separate adjustment of the quiescent current, the quiescent current automatically adjusts itself to the optimal value with this circuit.

This value remains largely constant during the life of the power tubes and therefore does not require any correction. Nevertheless, it is of course sensible that the BIAS can be checked to detect a prematurely aged or damaged power tube.

Therefore, a BIAS measuring device was integrated in the V 70 Class A, which enables the user to check the BIAS of the four power tubes. The BIAS is shown with three colored LEDs, yellow for quiescent current too low, green for correct quiescent current and red for quiescent current too high. The display "too low" or "too high" indicates a faulty or worn out power tube. These tube(s) should be replaced.



The LED display

Red LED only	BIAS is too high, this tube should be replaced.
Green + red LED	BIAS is OK the tube is working, but the value is unfavorable because it is slightly outside the tolerance range.
Green LED only	BIAS is OK All tubes are within their tolerance range.
Yellow + green LED	BIAS is OK the tube is working, but the value is unfavorable because it is slightly outside the tolerance range.
Yellow LED only	BIAS is too low, this tube should be replaced.

If the quiescent current in a tube rises far into the "red, quiescent current too high" range, the electronic fuse can be activated as a result, this is indicated by the red protection LED. The BIAS LEDs then all go back to "yellow".

Important Note:

Switching the power selector from high to low and vice versa has no effect on the BIAS display.

7. TUBES

7.3. Replacing the tubes

- **Driver tubes**
Replacement driver tubes require no adjustment.
- **Output tubes**

General procedure	
1.	Switch off the amplifier and allow it to cool down for 10 minutes. Remove the old tubes and fit the new ones.
2.	 Before switching the V 70 Class A on again with new tubes: make sure that the tubes are correctly inserted and that the correct types are used in the corresponding positions 5, 6 and 7 in the case of the driver tubes.
3.	Switch on the amplifier and turn the mode selector switch (No. [2]) to the BIAS position. Following the Soft-Start phase, all 4 "minus" LEDs (yellow) will illuminate. If from this point of time any of the LEDs are green or red, this indicates a faulty tube that must be replaced. If all tubes are ok, the BIAS display will change to green after approx. 2 minutes.
3.1	 Original Octave tubes. There is no need to burn in original Octave replacement tubes. Allow the tubes 10 minutes to warm up and adjust them to the appropriate setting for the tube type.
3.2	New, untested output tubes should be allowed a longer warm up period. You should check these tubes after about 20 minutes.

7.4. Running in the tubes

All OCTAVE equipment is subject to a 48-hour Long-term quality test at the factory to burn in the tubes. The tubes are preselected for use in each particular model.

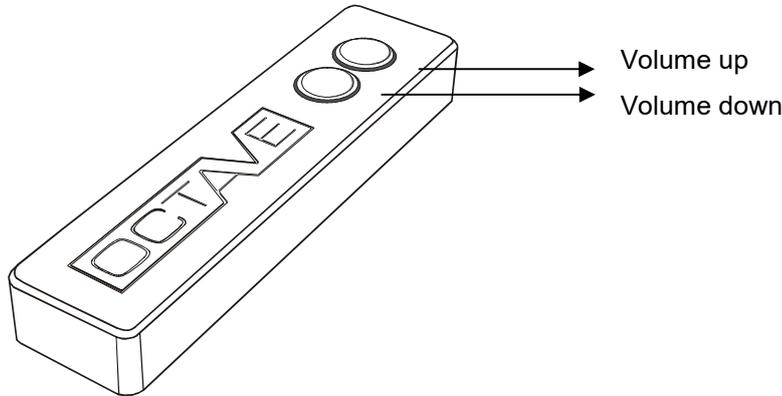
New tubes can take up to three months to run in and start sounding their best.

Daily use is beneficial in speeding up this process but is not mandatory. Continuous operation does very little to help reduce the running-in time and is therefore ***not*** recommended.

7.5. Tube Service Life

- Thanks to the protection circuits and soft-start electronics, the output tubes in your amplifier should achieve a service life of up to 3 - 5 years.
- Driver tubes can be used for 10 years or even longer.
- Because tubes have different service lives, you will never have to renew the entire tube complement at the same time. The power tubes should be replaced in pairs (V1.2 and 3.4) if a power tube of the power amplifier pairs has to be replaced.
- Some tubes require a long time (up to 300 hours) to achieve their optimum sound quality. Depending on how long the tubes have been stored, it may be necessary to adjust the BIAS several times in the first two to three weeks after installing them.

8. REMOTE CONTROL



Changing the batteries

1. Remove the bottom plate (three screws size 3 x 8 Phillips countersunk head screw) with screwdriver Phillips 1
2. Change the batteries (2 x type AAA 1.5 V alkali-manganese / alkaline)
Please take care not to push the buttons of the remote control while inserting the new batteries.
 If it still happens that the remote control does not work after changing the batteries, remove the new batteries and wait for the minimum of 30 minutes. After 30 minutes you can insert the new batteries again and the remote control should work.
3.  Install the bottom plate again, tighten the screws not too hard.
NOTE: Please don't trash the old batteries. Batteries must be disposed of as special waste. Stores that sell batteries should provide containers for the collection of used batteries.

9. OPTION PHONO MC/MM

A MM or MC Phono board is available as an option for the V 70 Class A. This additional board is connected internally to the AUX 2 input. When the board is installed, this input can no longer be used as a line level input. The phono preamplifier incorporates active RIAA equalization with an active, 2nd order subsonic filter. The phono preamplifier uses semiconductor technology throughout.

The subsonic filter suppresses undesirable low frequency signals in the sub-audio range caused by warped disks and pickup/tone arm resonances. The inverting active equalization guarantees absolutely natural tonality of the phono preamplifier. Traditional equalization topologies lacking effective subsonic filtering can never achieve better than average sound quality, particularly as subsonic interference will cause substandard reproduction of the lower registers.

Two phono boards are available, one for MC and one for MM. Installation is straightforward and can be carried out by your authorized retailer or a specialist workshop. The MC board is recommended without reservation for use with virtually all MC systems and has been optimized for both low and medium output systems. The MM board is suitable for all high output MC and MM systems.

Specification

Input impedance	MC 150 ohms, MM 47 kohms
Signal-to-noise ratio	MC 73 dB, MM 85 dB
Input sensitivity	MC 0.5 mV, MM 4 mV
Subsonic filter	-12 dB/Octave; 20 Hz roll off frequency

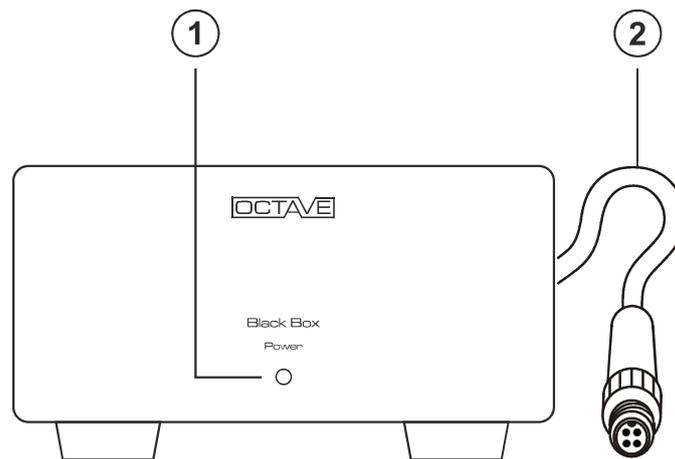
10. OPTION (SUPER) BLACK BOX

Description

With the Black Box technology OCTAVE offers an instrument for optimizing the OCTAVE amplifier in respect to the speaker. This flexibility is a unique feature of the OCTAVE brand.

The dynamic and tonal stability of an amplifier is strongly dependent upon the stability and capacity of the power supply, therefore the Black Box and Super Black Box were developed as external upgrades to the OCTAVE amplifiers' power supply storage capacitors by increasing their capacitance by a factor of 4 (Black Box) or 10 (Super Black Box), respectively. This is a tremendous benefit if the speaker is difficult to drive. Loudspeaker efficiency is made less critical, while the amplifier is enabled to handle speakers with minimum impedances as low as 2 ohms. The power supply capacitance increase realized via use of the Black Box or Super Black Box stabilizes current delivery and reduces the impedance interaction of the load. This improves dynamic range, separation, depth, soundstage size and articulation, rendering the musical reproduction clearer throughout the entire frequency range. The amplifier remains unaffected by mains variations and interferences due to the noise filtering characteristics of the capacitors.

10.1. Option Black Box



Legend

(1) Indicator LED	The LED illuminates continuously when the amplifier is on. The LED goes out when the protection circuitry trips. This is normal, because the protection circuitry cuts the power to the amplifier.
(2) High-current plug	

10.2. Connecting to the amplifier



- Important! Before connecting the Black Box, switch **off** the unit using **the power switch and wait for 1 minute**.

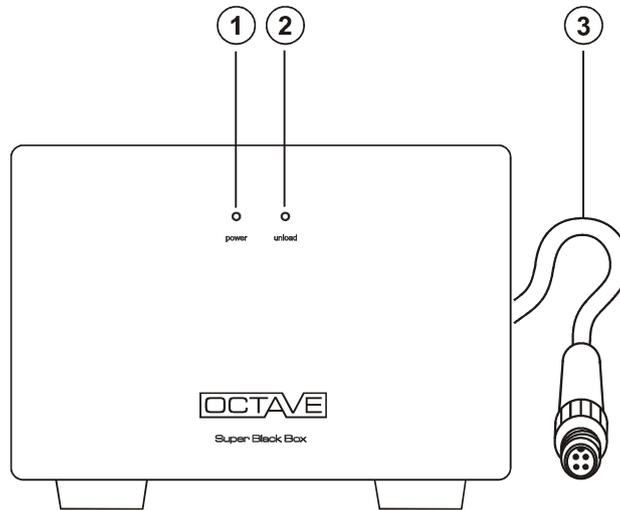
When inserting the connector, guide the anti-rotation lug carefully into the mating recess in the socket.



- When you switch on the amplifier, the LED on the front panel of the Black Box will illuminate.
Note: The LED on the Black Box goes off when the amplifier's electronic protection circuitry is activated or the Ecomode has turned the unit down.
- Should you wish to disconnect the Black Box, switch off the amplifier first and **wait until the LED on the Black Box has gone out**.

10. OPTION (SUPER) BLACK BOX

10.3. Option Super Black Box



Legend

(1) Blue power LED	The blue “power” LED illuminates when the amplifier is switched on via the amplifier’s power on/off switch.
(2) Yellow unload LED	The yellow “unload” LED (discharge control circuit) lights up for approximately 2 seconds after switch-off, in case the electronic protection is activated and if the amp is powered down through the Eco-mode. The Super Black Box is equipped with a rapid discharge circuit, which discharges the unit’s electrolytics. The yellow LED indicates that this procedure is taking place. The discharge circuit also activates if the Super Black Box connecting cable is accidentally removed. This is to prevent the Super Black Box maintaining its charge when it has not been properly disconnected.
(3) High-current plug	(Connection see Black Box).

10.4 Technical Data (Super) Black Box

Specifications Black Box

Weight	3.2 kg
Dimensions	185 x 100 x 310 mm (Width x Height x Depth) with cable clamp and angled cable.
Cable length	1 m with connector. Longer lengths are available upon request.

Specifications Super Black Box

Weight	5.6 kg
Dimensions	200 x 150 x 350 mm (Width x Height x Depth) with cable clamp and angled cable.
Cable length	1 m with connector. Longer lengths are available upon request.

11. TROUBLESHOOTING

11.1. Faults caused by external issues

Buzzing and hum in the speakers

◆ **Possible cause: multiple grounds**

Hum in an audio system is often caused by several system components having their own separate grounds. It is particularly common in systems containing tuners, VCRs or satellite receivers, as these components are connected to an aerial. Because aerials and cables are always grounded, ground loops can form between the aerial connection and other grounded equipment. Other equipment that is normally grounded may include PCs with sound cards, and some CD/DVD players and DACs. Although the V 70 Class A is grounded, its signal ground is a "floating" ground, which means that the V 70 Class A cannot itself create ground loops. Hum can only be caused when it is connected to other items of equipment.

To fix the problem

Before trying to fix the problem, find out which of your system components is responsible for generating the hum.

Procedure:

- Unplug all source equipment, including any equalizer if used, from the V 70 Class A, leaving only the loudspeakers connected.
- Reconnect the components back to the V 70 Class A one at a time. As soon as the hum reappears, you have two grounded components connected to the V 70 Class A. You must now unplug your components in reverse order to find out which of them is grounded.

Usually, the hum will still appear even when the problem components are switched off. The ground causing the problem is always connected, since it is not broken when the power switch is operated.

Now that you know which components are grounded, you can discuss the problem with your dealer. One option might be to use a signal-isolating filter on the aerials or cable networks. These devices do not normally have any adverse effect on the sound or picture quality of tuners or TVs. Other possible solutions could include using an isolating transformer or an isolating device offering complete galvanic isolation. Please seek the advice of a specialist.

Power strips with built-in filters, mains filters or replacement mains cables are not appropriate solutions.

Note

Switching power supplies are quite common nowadays. These are often fitted with a protective earth terminal (PE) and an RFI filter. When using such units, the protective earth terminal **must** be connected to the wall socket. **You must never remove this protective terminal, as doing so could cause high levels of radio frequency interference to enter your system, which could affect the operation of other digital equipment, including remote controls.**

11. TROUBLESHOOTING

◆ Possible cause: induction

Another possible cause of hum could be the stray field of a transformer generating interference in a device or cable. You can easily diagnose this problem by switching off the problem component.

To fix the problem

To reduce this kind of interference, move the transformer/component or the affected component/cable to a different location.

The transformer in the V 70 Class A will not generate interference, as it is electromagnetically shielded and has a very low stray field.

◆ "Phase" does not cause noise and hum

The mains polarity of the components in your system has no effect on noise and hum. That is a common fallacy. Swapping positive and negative in your mains plug will not make any difference to an earth loop. If it does, there is a fault with that component and you should not be using it.

Switching interference

Older fridges and 12 V halogen lamps can produce strong radio interference when they turn on and off. Depending on the wiring in your home, this can result in clicks and pops in your loudspeakers.

To fix the problem

Modern domestic mains systems with a separate protective earth (PE) will normally suppress this interference. If you experience this type of switching interference, you either have a poor protective earth connection in your home or else your house does not use a PE system. In the latter case, you may not be able to eliminate switching interference entirely. In any event, the use of mains filters (in front of the device responsible for the problem) is certainly recommended.

Channels are not balanced

Level differences can have a variety of causes, although tubes are unlikely to be one of these.

1. The acoustics of the listening room may be affecting what you hear.
2. One of the drivers in your loudspeakers may be faulty.
3. There may be a faulty cable in your system.

To fix the problem

You can trace the cause of this kind of problem by swapping speakers, cables, etc.

11. TROUBLESHOOTING

11.2. Faults caused by tubes

Like other OCTAVE products, the V 70 Class A is equipped with a double safety system. This means that the amplifier will be protected from damage if a component (tube) should fail and trip the electronic protection. The protection system protects the amplifier and the tubes from overload. This technology has proven its worth in recent years. *It has enabled us to reduce our overall failure rate (except for output tubes, which we are unable to control 100 %) to virtually zero. OCTAVE equipment will achieve a service life of 10 to 15 years without needing to be serviced.* We feel that this is particularly important aspect of tube equipment design, as many preconceptions still exist about the technology's durability and long-term stability.

There are a number of reasons why tubes might fail at some point in their lifetime. You can fault-find tubes by examining their behavior.

Mechanical fault that does not trip the V 70 Class A's protection

◆ **The tube's heater filament no longer glows**

No matter whether it is a driver tube or an output tube, no tube can work without a properly functioning heater.

Output tube heater fault

When the heater system on an output tube fails, you will be unable to adjust the BIAS. The particular tube will refuse to move from the minus setting. A loose connection inside the tube could have caused the heater to fail. It may be possible to repair the connection by mechanical means. If the BIAS was previously badly misadjusted, the BIAS might "run-away", tripping the electronic protection.

This is why you should never turn the BIAS screws to the extreme right and leave them there. If you have not been able to adjust the BIAS satisfactorily, turn the adjuster screw back to its extreme left position.

Driver tube heater fault

When a driver tube heater fault occurs, you will normally lose an entire channel (depending on which driver tube system is affected by the faulty heater). This can only be established by a visual examination. The heater filaments are often difficult to see inside the driver tubes, since they only protrude very slightly from the tube system. OCTAVE uses double triodes exclusively, i.e. there are always two identical tube systems within the glass envelope. Because each of these triode systems has its own heater, you should always be able to see two glowing filaments. If you can only see one, it means that the tube is faulty.

◆ **A tube has developed an air leak**

The glass envelope of all tubes normally contains a vacuum. In order to maintain the vacuum throughout the service life of the tube, there is a device inside the tube that absorbs the residual gas. It is called the getter pill. It normally takes the form of a small crucible near the top of the tube. It contains a substance known as the getter, which absorbs and permanently retains the residual gas. This device ensures that the tube maintains a high vacuum during its entire service life. Hairline cracks around the base and leaks around the socket pins can cause the tube to take in air. Because the getter is only able to absorb a finite amount of gas, it will soon stop working. The silver coating at the top of the tube will then begin to discolor. If a tube has an air leak, you will not be able to adjust its BIAS voltage. As soon as a certain amount of air leaks into the tube, it will stop working completely and the heater filament will burn through.

11. TROUBLESHOOTING

Tube faults that trip the protection system

The protection system continuously measures the current flowing into the four power tubes. Depending on the problem, this current may exceed a specified limit and cause the protection system to switch the power stage off. The red protection LED will light up to show that this has happened. Once the protection circuit has been tripped, you will no longer be able to measure the BIAS of the power tubes and your amplifier will not produce any output. Exceeding the specified current limit can have a variety of causes.

◆ Faulty output tube

Aging and mechanical stresses from rough handling during transport can create an unwanted connection inside the tube, which can lead to failure of the tube.

How can you recognize a faulty tube? If you do not know what fault caused your amplifier to cut out, it is a good idea to disconnect the speakers and switch the V 70 Class A off and on again. Before switching it back on, turn the mode selector to the BIAS position. Now check the correct operation of the tubes via the BIAS display. If the tubes are good, the sequence of events will be as follows:

- Four LEDs illuminate until the soft-start phase is complete.
- After the soft-start phase, the power tubes will begin to heat up and will visibly glow as current flows into the tubes. After approximately one minute, the BIAS display should read "green".
- A fault in one of the power tubes would result in an uncontrolled rise in current, which would cause the top, red BIAS LED of the relevant tube to illuminate after a short time. A further rise in current to the tube would then cause the protection system to trip. Should this happen, switch the V 70 Class A off and replace the problem tube.

◆ Faulty driver tube

In very rare cases, a problem with one of the driver tubes can cause the V 70 Class A to switch off. You can use the BIAS display to troubleshoot problems in the driver stage. The procedure is the same as the one described earlier, although the display will behave differently after the amplifier has warmed up. If one of these tubes is indeed responsible for the problem, both output tubes in the affected channel will behave erratically. This behavior may take the form of short, rapid changes in LED color - from yellow to green and red and back again. If the BIAS of both output tubes in one channel appears unstable, one of the driver tubes is generally responsible.

◆ Tube faults that degrade the sound

These faults are relatively uncommon and usually a result of a fault already described above. Thanks to the controlled soft-start circuitry, the tubes will retain their tone throughout their working life.

The V 70 Class A's sophisticated, low-noise power supply circuits push hum and noise down to negligible levels. Tubes do not inherently produce hum or hiss: these problems are simply side effects of older, classic tube technology.

Noise, crackling or similar undesirable noises can be caused by residual gas or other residues in the tubes. This kind of noise does not often reach a level that could be considered annoying, although the nearer to the "front" the particular tube is, the more it will tend to make itself felt. In the V 70 Class A, this would be tube V 5. As it is rare for both systems in a double triode to be equally affected, the noise levels in each stereo channel will be different. If you experience noise that is louder on one channel than on the other, the first thing to do is to change the V 5 tube (ECC83).

12. SPECIFICATIONS AND DIMENSIONS

Output Configuration: Push Pull, advanced Pentode Mode, Grid 2 Voltage 340 V.
 Wideband Output Transformers using Silicon steel PMX Core, single Impedance Output.
 Optimum Load Impedance 4 - 16 ohms. Amplifier remains stable with No Load.

In- and Outputs	
Inputs	6 x Cinch (including one HT Bypass input) An RCA input can be assigned to the optional phono MM or MC. 1 x XLR
Outputs	1 x Regulated Preamplifier Output RCA 1 x RCA Record Output 1 x Loudspeaker Output
XLR Pin configuration	1 = ground, 2 = plus, 3 = minus
Output stage	
Output Power into 4 ohms	Power Selector High 2 x 50 W RMS Power Selector Low 2 x 25 W RMS
Peak Power into 4 ohms	Power Selector High 2 x 70 W Peak Power Selector Low 2 x 35 W Peak Into 8-Ohms Load the Output Power is reduced by 20 %
Frequency response	20 Hz – 70 kHz @ 50 W - 1 / - 3 dB
THD / Distortion factor	0.1 % at 10 W an 4 ohms
Signal-to-noise ratio	- 100 dB / 50 W unweighted, -110 dB weighted
Output Noise	< 200 µV
Optimal load impedance	4 – 16 ohms
Overall gain	35 dB
Damping factor	5 at 8 ohms load
Preliminary stage	
Input Impedance	50 kohms / Cinch, 25 kohms / XLR
Input Sensitivity	300 mV Line Level Inputs
Crosstalk input to input	- 105 dB
Channel Separation	55 dB
Output Impedance Pre out	240 ohms
Max. Level Pre Out	5 V RMS
Driver tubes	1 x ECC83, 2 x ECC81

12. SPECIFICATIONS AND DIMENSIONS

General data

Power consumption

350 W at full power
 190 W idle
 20 W in Ecomode
 Inrush current limitation to 600 W for 0.3 sec.

Weight

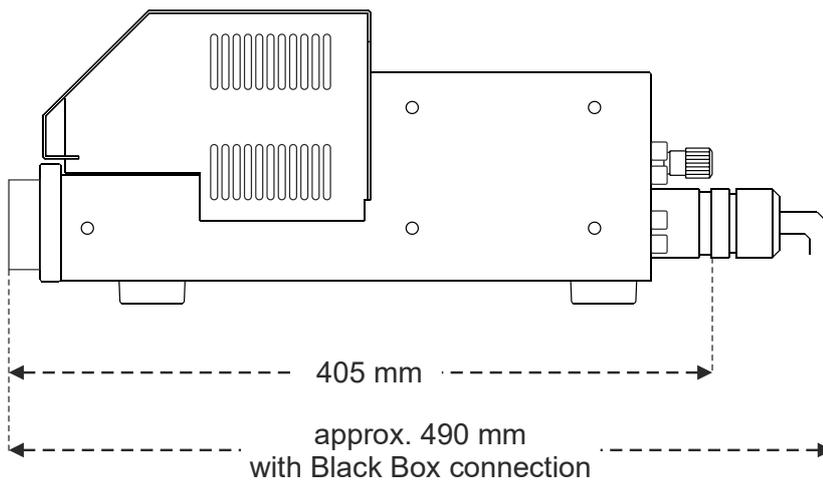
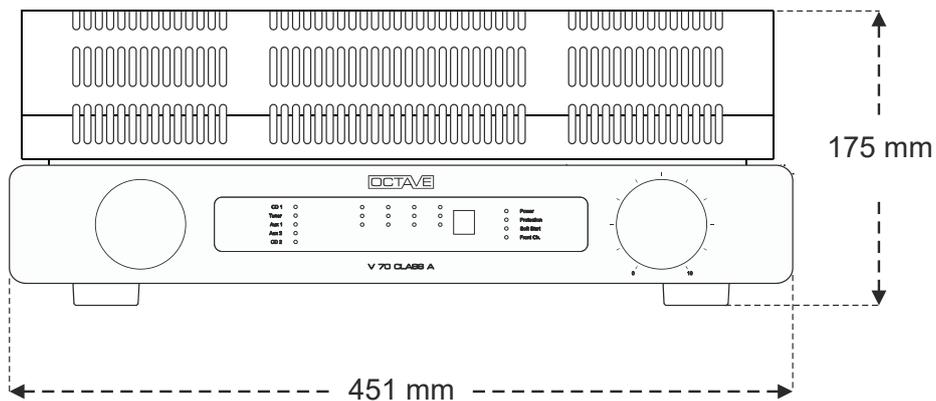
23.0 kg

Mains fuse

220 / 230 V: 3.15 A slow-blow H (T 3,15 A H- size 5 x 20 mm)
 240 V: 3.15 A slow-blow H (T 3,15 A H- size 5 x 20 mm)
 115 / 120 V: 6.3 A slow-blow H (T 6.3 A H size 5 x 20 mm)
 100 V: 6.3 A slow-blow H (T 6.3 A H size 5 x 20 mm)

Dimensions

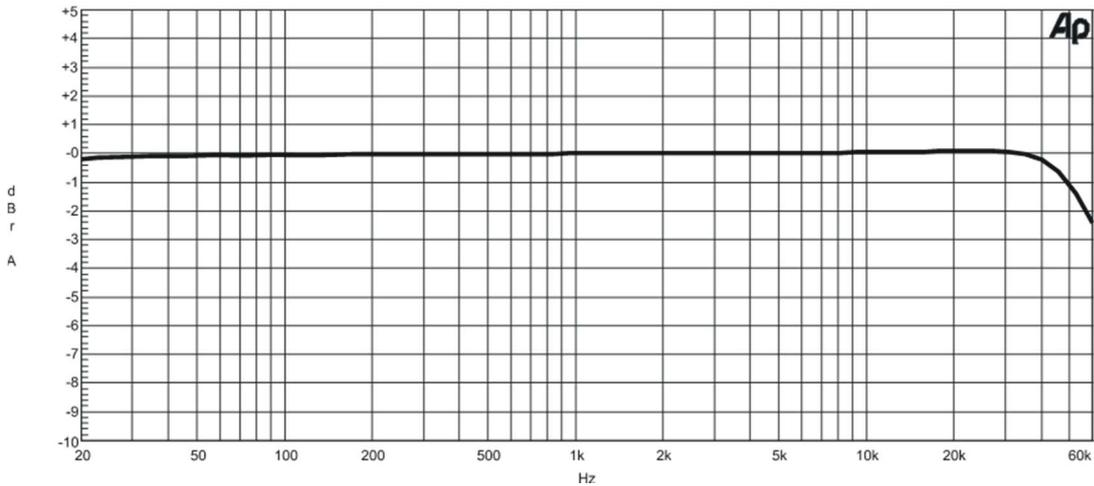
Overall dimensions in mm
 451 x 175 x 405 mm (width x height x depth)



12. SPECIFICATIONS AND DIMENSIONS

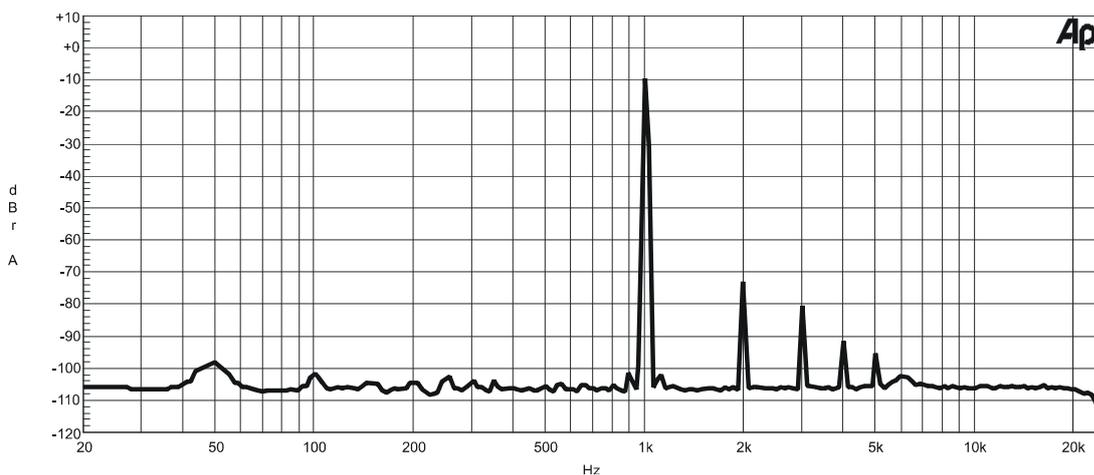
Diagrams, graphs

Graph 1: Frequency response V 70 Class A, 5 W into 4 ohms



The frequency response curve clearly shows the low cut-off frequency of the V 70 class A; it is well below 20 Hz. The loss at 20 Hz is less than 0.2 dB

Graph 2: Noise spectrum



Noise spectrum at 1 kHz / 5 W into 4 ohms – there is no mains interference to be seen (50 Hz < 200 μ V, 100 Hz < 70 μ V). The k2, k3, k4 and k5 noise spectrum is extremely low and falls quickly.

13. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. Can you operate the V 70 Class A when no loudspeakers are connected?

Yes. The V 70 Class A, like all OCTAVE amplifiers, is fully protected against open circuit operation, i.e. the amplifier will come to no harm if it is operated without loudspeakers connected.

2. How do you recognize a faulty tube?

There are 3 different symptoms indicating a faulty tube:

- A broken heater filament: the tube stops glowing.
- A defective cathode layer: the tube glows, but no current can flow. You can confirm this fault using the bias display LEDs – no matter how much you try to adjust the bias, the minus LED will always remain on.
- A short circuit inside the tube. Normally, this will cause the electronic protection to cut in and the red "off" LED to illuminate, or else the tube will refuse to respond to bias adjustment (the display keeps returning to the red area).

The amplifier will still operate with either of these faults present, but the channel containing the faulty tube will be quieter than normal. The fault may not be obvious at low listening levels but distortion will become evident at higher listening levels.

If fault 3 occurs, the protection circuits will normally switch the amplifier off. You may also hear loud background noises just before it switches off, although these will not harm the amplifier (see chapter 6.2).

3. Is there a loss of sound quality as tubes age?

No. Tubes normally sound the same throughout their service life. Our soft-start technology contributes greatly to extending the service life of tubes. You can tell when an output tube has reached the end of its useful life: it becomes impossible to adjust it correctly. Driver tubes cannot be checked, but these will generally last for well over 10 years.

4. Does the V 70 Class A have to have all of its tubes fitted?

In principle, the V 70 Class A will also operate without tubes. It is sometimes useful to do this when testing the operation of the switching functions such as the selector switch, remote control, etc. Of course, it is not possible to play music under these circumstances.

For test purposes or as a temporary measure one channel may be fitted with just a single power tube, although its power output will, of course, be reduced. The amplifier will come to no harm if it is operated continuously like this.

Operation without driver tubes is also possible for test purposes, although, for obvious reasons, music playback is not possible.

5. What is the significance of loudspeaker impedance and efficiency?

The impedance and efficiency of modern loudspeakers is not an issue for OCTAVE amplifiers. The often-quoted damping factor is not normally a guarantee that an amplifier will exert tight control over the loudspeakers. In practice, speakers of 85 dB efficiency and above are suitable for use with tube amplifiers. The high stability of the OCTAVE power amplifier technology even allows the use of speakers whose impedance dips as low as 2 ohms.

6. What cables are suitable for tube power amplifiers?

The cable manufacturers are now offering cables that have supposedly been designed specifically for tube amplifiers. Although such cables may be of good quality, there is no need to use special cables with tube amplifiers. Speaker cable can exhibit high values of capacitance and inductance, and tube power amplifiers deal with such loads better than transistor power amplifiers. The only exception would be if you needed to use a tube pre-to-power amp interconnect cable longer than 5 meters. In that case, a low capacitance cable would be advisable.



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