

PRESS RELEASE
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Icon Audio launch new flagship integrated amplifier: the pure triode push-pull Stereo 845



Icon Audio's new flagship Stereo 845 integrated amplifier: "Everything possible has been done to allow the 845 to work its magic".

Could this be the ultimate pure triode push-pull integrated amplifier? Award-winning valve amp specialists Icon Audio have pulled out all the stops to produce their brand new flagship integrated amplifier for 2014: the Stereo 845 (ST845).

The Stereo 845 has been painstakingly designed for audiophiles who love the sublime quality of the legendary 845 valve with its big, warm and detailed sound, but who don't need high power or may not have the space for two large monoblocks and a pre-amp.

The Stereo 845 features four matched 845 valves, two 6SL7 first stage valves, two 6SN7 output driver valves and a GZ34 driver stage rectifier. The four 845s can be user-calibrated using Icon Audio's built-in 'easy bias' meter and deliver a rated continuous output of 40 watts per channel.

The 845 valve, already the star of Icon Audio's hugely successful MB845 monoblocks, is renowned for delivering tremendous dynamics and powerful bass giving it a live sound quality that many find irresistible. While the MB845 monoblocks achieve around a 100-watt output from a push-pull pair of 845s, in the Stereo 845

Icon Audio have deliberately allowed the valves to operate in a much more relaxed manner, being only pushed to produce 40 watts. "Forty watts is ample power to obtain a high volume in most situations," says David Shaw, Icon Audio's founder and designer of the new Stereo 845. "Surprisingly, the difference in maximum volume capability between a 100-watt and a 40-watt amp is only 3.9db".

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This means that the valves are not stressed at all and every component within the Stereo 845 is operating within its comfort zone. This result is a product with exceptional consistency and reliability. But it's the enviable sonic performance where the real magic lies.

Whichever speakers you use, the Stereo 845 offers a very unbiased interpretation of music in a way that only valves can do. Like all good 845 amplifiers, it produces a full-bodied, full-range sound with powerful bass and lightning reflexes. However, the particular beauty of the Stereo 845 lies in it the way that it also combines this with a relaxed and natural quality, enabling an exceptional musicality. Melodies, cadences, contrasts and colours within the music flow effortlessly without any sense of restriction or being forced. Expect to hear a more three-dimensional sound stage, more precise imaging and a fuller appreciation of the distinct texture of each instrument. If there was ever an amplifier that real music lovers could just fit and forget, sit back and enjoy the magnificent beauty of music, then this is it.

"You could say that this amplifier has been twelve years in the making," says David Shaw, "as we've drawn on all our experience and expertise in designing and manufacturing it. The 845 is a superb valve and in this amp, everything possible has been done to allow the 845 to work its magic."

The Stereo 845 can be ordered as a 'David Shaw Signature' version featuring Jensen copper foil oil-in-paper capacitors and premium valves.

Features: Icon Audio Stereo 845

- Pure Class A triode front end
- Pure triode 845 push-pull output stage
- The four 845s can be user-calibrated using Icon Audio's built-in 'Easy Bias' meter
- All hand wired point to point to optimise sound and reliability
- Low distortion tertiary-wound output transformers, potted to reduce noise
- Solen/SCR audiophile quality capacitors
- Silver plated pure copper PTFE audio cable
- Gold plated input and loudspeaker terminals
- Four line inputs
- Record loop
- Remote control volume
- Attractive Plexiglas® valve cover included
- May also be used as a power amplifier

Technical specifications: Icon Audio Stereo 845

Output power	40W per channel
Suitable loudspeakers	4Ω to 16Ω
Sensitivity	300mv sensitivity.(high) for full output 950mv sensitivity (low) for full output
Frequency response	10hz-20kHz -0dB (41kHz -0.1db) @ 8W 20Hz-20kHz ±0.25dB (40kHz -1dB) @ 38W
Signal to noise ratio	-93dB
Channel balance	> 0.1dB
Total harmonic distortion	0.3% @ 8W 0.09% @ 1W
Damping factor	14
Valve complement	4 x 845 precisely matched 2 x 6SL7 first stage valves 1 x GZ34 driver stage rectifier 2 x 6SN7 output driver valves
Power consumption	220W typical 500W max
Dimensions (H x W x D)	24 (28 with cover) x 44 x 40cm
Weight	35kg
Warranty	2 years excl. valves
FCC, CE and RoHS compliant	

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UK selling price (inc. VAT)

Icon Audio Stereo 845 £ 5,999.95

AVAILABLE NOW

About Icon Audio

The Icon Audio philosophy is to create audiophile products that sound good, look good, are easily affordable and will last a lifetime.

Each Icon Audio amplifier is designed in Leicester, UK, by the company's founder, David Shaw. The amplifier chassis are then manufactured in China, with production and quality control being closely managed by David himself who regularly travels to China to ensure that the performance and quality on which Icon Audio have built their reputation are fully maintained. Final product assembly, custom modifications and extensive testing then take place in Icon's premises in Leicester, UK.

Everything in an Icon Audio amplifier is serviceable and replaceable, from the valves themselves to substantial components such as the transformers. All Icon Audio products are available for demonstration by appointment in Leicester and also via a selected dealer network.

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Key to terms

Push-pull	The terms 'single-ended' and 'push-pull' refer to the way in which amplifier components in the output stage are connected. A push-pull amplifier is more efficient than a single-ended amplifier.
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene, a synthetic polymer with very low capacitance hence ideally suited as an electrical insulator in hi-fi applications.
Triode	The earliest and purest form of amplifying valve. The triode features three electrodes: a cathode (a heated emitting element), the grid (a gate that controls the flow of electrons) and the anode (a plate to which the electrons flow).

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