



**SLA-30**

**OPERATING MANUAL**



**NOTE:**

Before installing your new SLA-30, please read this manual carefully as it will inform you of the SLA-30's specifications, proper installation procedures and operation procedures. Also included in this manual are guidelines on how to properly service and care for your new SLA-30.

**SLA-30**  
**30/30 Watt Stereo Amplifier**

**INTRODUCTION**

Congratulations! You have purchased one of the most exotic audio amplifiers available. The 6BQ5/EL84 beam pentode tubes in the SLA-30 are REAL beam power audio tubes. These output tubes offer far greater linearity and lower distortion than a pentode audio output tube. The SLA-30 is operated in the Class "A" mode.

The SLA-30 is constructed to the highest commercial standards utilizing a glass, double sided, plated through printed circuit board. All resistors are 1% metal film and the audio coupling capacitors are made of polypropylene. The high voltage DC power supply contains six computer grade electrolytic capacitors for a total of 1200 MFD. The SLA-30 utilizes 12AX7 tubes as the predriver. The famous EL84 beam power output tubes in a push-pull output configuration are operated in pure Class A. The output transformer is a special design of Cary Audio's which is specifically for use in the SLA-30. This output transformer is the most important component in the entire amplifier. All SLA-30 amplifiers are burned in at the factory for a 48 hour period. This burn-in period will assure you of a trouble free amplifier, right out of the box.

The most exciting feature of the SLA-30, aside from how gorgeous it looks, is the delightful, sensual beauty of the music it recreates. The first thing that will strike you about your new SLA-30 is the incredible transparency and resolution of detail in the music. The SLA-30's sensual nature is best revealed in the sense of life they display in female vocalists.

This amp presents music with such presence and directness, you'll be drawn into the music hour after musically satisfying hour. This is the result of circuit techniques, which eliminate any discernable crossover notch at low levels, and also contributes to the freedom from listening fatigue. The SLA-30 will draw you in even further as you realize how lucid and utterly uncolored neutrality reveals delicate nuances in the sound stage.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Operating the SLA-30 stereo amplifier is a simple procedure since each unit is designed for long term stability in virtually any home operating situation. Therefore, if the unit is operated outside the parameters outlined in this owner's manual, damage may result. Please read this manual carefully before putting your new Cary Audio Design SLA-30 in operation.

The following definitions are applicable to this manual. These definitions must be followed explicitly.

**WARNING**  
**HAZARD PRESENTS PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH**

**Caution**  
EQUIPMENT DAMAGE MAY OCCUR BUT NOT PERSONAL INJURY

**Note**  
Proper performance of the amplifier cannot be ensured if disregarded

### 1.2 Specifications

The following section describes the SLA-30's basic specs. Specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation.

DIMENSIONS: 4-1/4"H x 16-1/2"W x 12-1/4"D

WEIGHT: 27 Lbs.

CIRCUIT TYPE: Push-Pull in Class A.

POWER OUTPUT: 1KHz sign wave  
(EACH CHANNEL) 11 volts RMS across 4 ohms=30 watts  
15.5 volts RMS across 8 ohms=40 watts

INPUT SENSITIVITY: .625 volts for full output

INPUT IMPEDANCE: 150,000 ohms

NOISE AND HUM: 80dB below rated output

FREQUENCY RESPONSE (at one watt output): 10Hz to 30,000Hz + 0 - 0.75dB  
(at full power output): 15Hz to 23,000Hz + .5 - 0.50dB

DAMPING FACTOR: Greater than 30

TUBES: 2-12AX7 predrivers, 8-6BQ5/EL-84 power output tubes  
(Optional: 8-7189 heavy duty upgrade tubes)

TRANSFORMERS: 1-EI laminated core power transformer  
2-Special Tri-tet output transformers  
150% duty cycle on all transformers

RESISTORS: 1% metal film

CAPACITORS: Polystyrene and polypropylene

POWER SUPPLY CAPACITORS: 6-800 MFD @ 400VDC, 183 Joules

AC CORD: 3 conductor shielded - detachable

AC POWER REQUIREMENTS: 117 volts AC 50/60 Hz  
165 watts operate  
65 watts in stand by (option)  
220 volts AC 50/60 Hz  
165 watts operate  
65 watts in stand by (option)

WARM-UP TIME: 3 minutes

BREAK-IN PERIOD: 100 hours of music playing time

### 1.3 Front Panel Features

AC-ON SWITCH: Turns AC power on in the "clockwise" position

LED'S: RED indicates AC voltage on.

STAND-BY SWITCH: Turns high voltage on in "clockwise" position

### 1.4 Rear Apron Features

INPUT: Signal input connection via shielded interconnect cable

OUTPUT: The 5-way binding posts provide the output to the speaker system. Red=+, Black=-

**CAUTION**  
EQUIPMENT DAMAGE MAY OCCUR WITH IMPROPER FUSES

AC: 3 conductor detachable shielded power cord to AC power mains

**CAUTION**  
USE OF ANY OTHER PROTECTION FUSE CAN DAMAGE UNIT

FUSE: AC power fuse. Never replace with any other value than 2 AMP  
SLOW BLOW! 250 VOLT!

**CAUTION**  
NEVER REMOVE/INSERT AC LINE CORD WHEN THE UNIT IS ON

## INSTALLATION

This section describes the unpacking and installation procedures for the SLA-30 stereo amplifier.

**WARNING**  
**MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO PUT THE SLA-30 AMPLIFIER IN SERVICE**  
**WITHOUT THE TOP COVER ATTACHED - CONTACT WITH VOLTAGE**  
**IN THE SLA-30 CAN BE FATAL!!!**

### 2.2 Unpacking

All shipping containers have been specifically designed to protect their contents and special care has been taken to prevent damage under normal shipping conditions. Mishandling should be evident upon inspection of the shipping container. If damage is found after visual inspection, take care not to destroy the evidence. If necessary, document the damage with photographs and contact the transport carrier immediately.

Carefully remove your new SLA-30 amplifier from its packing carton, and examine it closely for signs of shipping damage. It is recommended to save all original packing cartons to protect your amplifier from damage should you wish to store it or ship it for after-sales service.

### 2.3 Warranty Card

Fill out the enclosed warranty registration card and return to Cary Audio Design, Inc. within 10 days of original purchase. Keep your original sales slip with the packing cartons should you ever need it for reference. Failure to register warranty will limit the warranty to one year.

### 2.4 Amplifier Placement

In general, the location of your new SLA-30 amplifier is not critical. The best placement in your system is near the speaker system with short lengths of speaker cables. Certain precautions must be taken to ensure optimum performance. Avoid extremely hot locations such as near radiators or other heating units. Keep the top of the SLA-30 clear of books, paper or other equipment to protect against overheating.

### 2.5 Power Requirements

The SLA-30 is designed to operate from house current mains. The design voltage is 117VAC at 50/60Hz. (Foreign units 220 VAC at 50/60Hz)

## 2.6 Cables

The speaker cables from the output posts of the SLA-30 to the speaker system can be any convenient length your set-up requires. Select speaker cables of sufficient size to preserve the outstanding performance capabilities of your SLA-30. Heavy gauge #16 wire is suitable for distances up to 10 feet; #12 for 25 feet. Most audio dealers will have proper speaker cable in stock for this purpose.

## OPERATION

Signal input connections are made via the input jacks on the rear of the SLA-30 located below the output binding posts. The interconnect cables from the output of the preamplifier can be any convenient length your set-up requires. The choice of a high quality interconnect cable is important. Once again, your audio dealer will have the proper cables in stock for this purpose.

### 3.1 Operation

Your new SLA-30 is ready for operation after the speaker and interconnect cables have been installed.

### 3.2 AC On Power Switch

Simply turn the AC power switch to the ON position. The Red LED on the front panel will light. Observe that all tubes are lit (filaments). After about 30 seconds, turn the stand-by switch to the operate position.

### 3.3 Stand-By Switch

This is a most convenient feature on the SLA-30 amplifier. This switch is located on the front of the amplifier. In the "operate" position, the amplifier is ready to operate. In the "stand-by" position (provided the front panel AC switch is in the "on" position), only the tube filaments are operating. You may wish to leave your SLA-30 amp turned on in the stand-by mode 24 hours a day. When you wish to listen to music, simply turn the stand-by switch to the "operate" position. Under these conditions the SLA-30 is always warmed up and ready for peak performance.

### 3.4 Break In Period

The tubes, capacitors and output transformers take approximately 100 hours of music playing to fully settle in for peak performance. The SLA-30 may seem sterile or thin sounding right out of the box. After the first couple of hours you will notice increased depth and tighter bass. This break in period defies all engineering theory, but is true with most audio amplifiers.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WARNING</b> <b>MAKE SURE AMPLIFIER IS UNPLUGGED FROM AC MAINS</b> <b>FOR ANY SERVICE OR CLEANING!</b></p>
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## SERVICE AND CARE

### 4.1 SLA-30 Care and Cleaning

The chassis and PC Board of the SLA-30 may be cleaned with a soft brush attachment on a vacuum cleaner. The frequency of cleaning will be governed by how many hours the SLA-30 is operated and by operating environmental cleanliness.

### 4.2 Tube Replacement

If it becomes necessary to replace the tubes in the SLA-30 amplifier, a matched set of tubes of the same brand should be used. A new tube kit is available from Cary Audio Design, Inc. You should get years from the output tubes with everyday usage and many, many years of use from the 12AX7 input tubes.

### 4.3 Factory Service

Careful consideration has been given to the design of your SLA-30 amplifier to keep maintenance problems to a minimum. However, it is possible that some problems may arise which cannot be cured by tube substitution. At this point we suggest that you contact our Customer Service Department, phone number 1-919-481-4494, to describe your problem in detail. Do not return the SLA-30 to the factory without a return authorization number from the Customer Service Department. Cary Audio Design, Inc. will assume no responsibility if the transportation company refuses to pay a damage claim due to your improper packing or lack of insurance should the unit be lost in shipment.

#### WARNINGS

**MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO PUT THE SLA-30 IN SERVICE OUTSIDE OF THE CABINET. CONTACT WITH HIGH VOLTAGES FOUND IN THE UNIT CAN BE FATAL!!!**

**COMPLETELY REMOVE AC POWER PLUG FROM THE WALL AND ALLOW 30 MINUTES FOR THE HIGH VOLTAGE CAPACITORS TO DISCHARGE THROUGH BLEEDER RESISTORS BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE TUBES OR CLEAN THE INSIDE OF THE AMPLIFIER.**

#### CAUTIONS

**NEVER REMOVE/INSERT AC PLUG WHEN THE UNIT IS ON OR THE AC POWER SWITCH IS IN THE "ON" POSITION.**

**OBSTRUCTION OF THE TOP PORTION OF THE SLA-30 WILL RESULT IN TUBES OVERHEATING.**

**\*\*\*OBSERVE DIRECTIONS IN THIS MANUAL\*\*\***

## **UNITED STATES LIMITED WARRANTY**

Cary Audio Design, Inc. warrants to the original United States purchaser for use in the United States, that this product shall be free from defects in material (except tubes and AF output transistors) or workmanship for three (3) years from the date of the original purchase.

During the warranty period, Cary Audio Design, Inc. or an authorized Cary Audio Design, Inc. service facility will provide free of charge both parts (except tubes and AF output transistors) and labor necessary to correct defects in material or workmanship.

To obtain such warranty service, the original purchaser must:

- (1) Complete and send in the warranty Registration Card.
- (2) Notify Cary Audio Design, Inc. as soon as possible after the discovery of a possible defect, of:
  - (a) The model number and serial number;
  - (b) The identity of the seller and the approximate date of purchase;
  - (c) A detailed description of the problem, including details on the electrical connection in the associated equipment and the list of such equipment.
- (3) Deliver the product to Cary Audio Design, Inc. or the nearest authorized service facility, or ship the same in its original container or equivalent, fully insured and the shipping charges prepaid.

Correct maintenance, repair and use are important to obtain performance from this product. Therefore, carefully read the Instruction Manual. This warranty does not apply to any defect that Cary Audio Design, Inc. in its sole discretion determines is due:

- (1) Improper maintenance or repair, including the installation of parts or accessories that does not conform to the quality and the specifications of the original parts.
- (2) Misuse, abuse, neglect or improper installation.
- (3) Accidental or incidental damage.

## **WARRANTY DISCLAIMER**

Except for the express warranties stated herein, Cary Audio Design, Inc. disclaims all other warranties including, without limitation, all implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

## **EXCLUSIVE REMEDY**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchaser's exclusive remedy for any breach of warranty, express or implied, is limited to the repair or replacement of the defective unit or the refund of the purchase price, at the option of Cary Audio Design, Inc. Under no circumstances is Cary Audio Design liable for incidental or consequential damages. Any implied warranties imposed by law terminate one (1) year from the date of the original purchase.

## **FOREIGN PURCHASERS**

Cary Audio Design, Inc. warrants its merchandise to purchasers in the United States for use in the United States. It provides no other warranties. If you are a foreign purchaser, consult with your dealer to determine whether your dealer provides any warranty.

The foregoing constitutes Cary Audio Design, Inc.'s entire obligation with respect to this product, and the original purchaser and any user or owner shall have no other claim for incidental or consequential damages. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation and exclusion may not apply to you.

This warranty gives legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.