Subject: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 13 May 2006 17:52:55 GMT
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I just got my new Aikido PC board in the mail today. Man it's nice and heavy and thick. Very nicely laid out with clear numbering and lettering. I bought the 5687 model. Now to assemble it and compare with the other Line Stages on hand. It's pretty big; 10" across.

Subject: Re: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 14 May 2006 02:55:07 GMT
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Man, that's cool. Can't wait to hear more about it. Any chance you could click a few pics while building, maybe show and tell, do a write-up of the build process?

Subject: Re: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 14 May 2006 14:17:07 GMT
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Thanks for your interest Wayne; as far as documenting the build process I am not exactly the most knowledgable candidate for a lucid and comprehensive detailed description of this kind of thing. I get the job done but I'm a little slow. People would be pretty much disinterested long about September when it starts to become a reality. This board is designed to allow people to adjust all of the parameters required in the build and design aspects of the line stage. It offers two ways to mount all of the passive components as well as multiple mounting options for each capacitor. But it is just a driver board you still need to design a power supply. There is an exhaustive description of the entire design and operation of the amp on Broskies site.I just find that I like building with PC boards only becuase without a scope or test equipment it takes a lot of the uncertainty out of the process. A multi-meter isn't really enough of a test bench to qualify as proper design procedure.

Subject: Re: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by GarMan on Mon, 15 May 2006 12:59:37 GMT
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I don't think you should be allowed to start a new project until you provide some commentary on some of your past mentions.For example: ESP DoZ, Snubberized PSOr maybe you're like me, who have 5 unfinished projects on the go at once.

Subject: Re: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 15 May 2006 22:22:40 GMT
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Yes five at least; the thing is while you are buying things for one project you always think hey; let me get some of these for this other project while I am at it. I just had to buy that PC board though it looked so nice on the website. I just replaced the very last thing in my old ST 70 that was original; the bias resistors. Now there is not one piece left on that old warhorse left to call "Dyna".The Snubber is simple but the problem is I am using that amp now while I convert the EL 84 to tube rec. So; whats up on your end G?

Subject: Re: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by Forty2wo on Tue, 16 May 2006 04:28:42 GMT
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I think you will like it. I built one with the boards Bas had made up. I use 6n1p or 6fq7 for the input and 6n6~ for the output. Everyone who listens to it seem to like it. I used a cobbled together power supply from bits on hand and when I measured it in response to a post on another board. It is absolutely wretched but yet it still sounds good. I have another set of boards and a proper transformer some day soon I will see what it sounds like with something like clean DC to power it…John

Subject: Re: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by GarMan on Tue, 16 May 2006 16:39:54 GMT
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I am trying frantically to finish a gainclone and a pair of Tangband speakers before I leave for Baltimore Thurs morning. Two weeks ago, I had this bright idea to build a system for my friend in Baltimore. The Tangband and gainclone are as simple as you can get, but nothing's easy with me.First weekend was spent on the cabinets and second weekend was on the amp chassis. Hoping to finish the wiring tonight.G.

Subject: Re: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 16 May 2006 23:10:54 GMT
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G-Man; if you are still there good luck with the amp. I am interested in your project TTYL.

Subject: Re: Aikido Line Stage
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 17 May 2006 11:25:13 GMT
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Nice work; thats a little different than the board I have, I never did find out what those differences between the various iterations of the Aikido are. Mine is a straight one piece with fopur 5687's. How did you do the power supply?

Subject: How did I do the power supply...Badly
Posted by Forty2wo on Thu, 18 May 2006 03:31:38 GMT
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It came straight out of the junk box. I started with a pair of Allied transformers that I picked up very cheep.With a SS diode full wave, the voltage was a bit too low. Full wave bridge a bit too high. So I fed that into a small .22 cap to knock down the voltage a bit. The rest are bits rescued from a junk computer power supply. I checked the voltage and ripple with a DVM and was good to goIt was not until months later, someone ask a question on another board so I hung my scope across the output. It is down right ugly. Between the transformers, the unsnubbed diodes and the small input cap. The thing rings like the bells of St. Mary . Still using it though. Like Arlo says " we're just wait'n for it to come around on the guitar again , that's what we're doing" I ordered a proper transformer and in due time I will fix it. In the mean time I am working on the 300b amps, putting some of Damir and Bas's ides in the mix. More on that soon.So who's boards do you have?…John

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Subject: Re: How did I do the power supply...Badly
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 19 May 2006 11:52:03 GMT
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I have the Broskie Board for four 5687's as a line stage. Truthfully I have not even studied it yet but I hope to get around to it soon. I see your are different; two mono boards; is that right?

Subject: Re: How did I do the power supply...Badly
Posted by Forty2wo on Mon, 22 May 2006 02:13:48 GMT

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Hi M,The boards I am using are the ones Bas Horneman had done up as a group buy over at DIY. There are some small differences (JB adds some decopling caps, Bas adds a trim pot ect..) but you can take the same hand full of parts and use either with success. JB's board was not available when I built mine. Are you sure that JB's board is set up for the 5687? It has that odd pinout, which leaves it off my favorite list. I will try to check later.If you have not been to the Tube cad site lately, in the last few bolgs there are PDF manuals as well as a big chart of tubes, with recommended cathode resistors and everything. Good stuff…John

Subject: Re: How did I do the power supply...Badly
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 26 May 2006 11:56:33 GMT
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Thanks John; yes I did make sure the board was set-up for the 5687's Only because i have a bunch of them. Say; what amp are you running this pre with?

Subject: Aikido 5678 PCB
Posted by Forty2wo on Mon, 29 May 2006 18:10:26 GMT
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Hi M, I looked over at Tube Cad, the 5687 pcb is set to use the 5687 in the output position only. I have used the 6CG7/6FQ7 and 6N1P for the input stage, with very good success. But pretty much any of the usual suspects will be pretty much plug and play. This has become my main line stage, crappy power supply and all. I use it with my DRD 45's and I have recently converted my WE91 300b amps to a D3A front end. Sort of a cross between Damir and Bas H. I am using a anode choke rather than a CCS. This is still very much in the experimental stage. I have posted a little over at group build…John

Subject: Re: Aikido 5678 PCB
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 30 May 2006 16:45:46 GMT
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Thanks John; thats a help. So you swapped out the CCS for an anode choke? That sounds good, can you say what made you make the change?

Subject: Re: Aikido 5678 PCB
Posted by Forty2wo on Wed, 31 May 2006 03:23:01 GMT
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No, I have yet to try the CCS. I had the chokes on hand and it was a relatively easy conversion…John