Silbatone Acoustics' mission is to capture the impact and excitement of the great Western Electric triode and horn theater loudspeaker systems of the 1930s and 1940s for modern listeners. Obviously we are serious enthusiasts of classic equipment, but we believe that progress can and must be made. Modern materials, manufacturing techniques, and many decades of perspective on circuit design are foundations for great improvements.

As dedicated tube lovers and collectors ourselves, we put a lot of emphasis on choosing the highest quality tubes for our creations. Since Silbatone does not produce for the mass market, we are not limited to those tube types currently being manufactured in China and Eastern Europe. All of our products feature NOS vacuum tubes and frequently we select extremely rare specimens from our extensive collection to produce limited edition or custom designs. These collector's items deserve to be heard and appreciated.

Our concern with ultimate parts quality extends far beyond vacuum tubes. We use the best silver-wired transformers for input and line applications. Our power output transformers are in-house "semi-silver" foil designs on high-nickel cores. All Silbatone products are wired with silver monocrystal or litz wire. Volume controls are high-grade stepped attenuators or silver transformer type. Our precision machined and hand-finished solid aluminum chassis contribute to the sound as well as the beauty of the finished product.

Silbatone's engineering team of Jim Morrison and Dr. Stephen Bae specialize in minimal parts count, direct coupled designs without signal capacitors. In most of our designs, the signal path consists exclusively of silver wire and tubes with occasional resistors as required. These direct-coupled topologies require sophisticated power supply implementations to allow the simple audio circuits to achieve their promise and that is where our engineering artistry lies. No Silbatone electronics are copycat products and we do not make any design compromises to meet arbitrary price points.

Since Silbatone Acoustics' production is quite limited and most buyers are highly-specialized and experienced audiophiles like ourselves, we feel a special relationship with the people who appreciate our approach. Our goal is not to profit in the marketplace but to pursue ultimate achievement in musical enjoyment and contribute to evolution in the art of sound system design. We believe that our lineup for the Year 2011 represents a new level of performance and we are pleased to have the opportunity to share the music and excitement with our friends in the audio world.
Western Electric 15A (c.1928)

We find it to be one of the great audio mysteries but also a powerful truth that certain very early sound technologies offer a level of performance and satisfaction unmatched by most efforts today. The Western Electric 15A “Wide Range” horn is one of these legendary achievements. Recognizable by its enormous dimensions and iconic “snail” shape, this antique horn has acquired mythical status among audiophiles and vintage collectors.

Given the great popular appeal of Western Electric L9 and 16A systems at the last two High End shows, we decided that it was time to feature the famous 15A for our Munich visitors. Few have the chance to hear these super-classic loudspeakers but it is an experience that anyone interested in music reproduction should enjoy at least once.

In our show system, a pair of WE 15A with WE 555 field coil drivers are run full-range, covering 80–6000hz. High frequencies are handled by the WE 597A field coil tweeter with a single oil cap for the crossover. In order to provide maximum listening excitement, we employ a subwoofer for low frequencies, although this is not strictly necessary for musical enjoyment of the 15A system.

1930s Western Electric bass units used 15 and 16 inch field coil woofers in large open-backed designs but due to size and weight, these original baffles are very difficult to transport. Our compact show woofer uses two 30 inch EV30W woofers in combination with two 15 inch Altec 515B units in an open baffle configuration.

Although the 15A is certainly an important piece of technological history and period industrial art, we present the WE-15A with the listening pleasure of our visitors in mind. We appreciate the opportunity to share these rare items from our museum collection and we hope that you enjoy this 80 year old classic as much as we do.
Silbatone Preamplifiers for 2012

Many audio products claim to be innovative but on close inspection they are not much more than recycled vintage consumer designs. We have taken on preamps as a special challenge, because we know we can do better by stepping beyond typical budget-driven design conventions. A preamplifier is the heart of any system but low level amplification has until now been a relatively underdeveloped art.

The C-100 Reference Preamplifier features a radical new transconductance amplifier circuit that provides 10000X front end gain using our world-class silver litz wire and amorphous core step-up transformer and only one active stage. RIAA EQ is LCR type. Line section uses a silver wire input transformer volume control, a Bendix 6900 triode push-pull stage in Blumlein self-balancing configuration, and a silver-wired output transformer with 600 ohm balanced output. Only transformers and tubes exist in the signal path. Capacitors are used only for equalization. We feel that the C-100 is without competition as the finest preamp on the market today.

For people who require a separate line amplifier, the L-100 offers the output stage from the C-100 in a single chassis format with enhanced control panel. This is a modern implementation of classic studio technology built to the ultimate standard. Highly flexible and logical connections and controls are designed into the L-100 platform. Silver transformer/attenuators allow 24-step attenuation. Mute, Mono, Monitor, and Phase Invert controls are available via front panel buttons. Balanced XLR inputs and outputs are furnished in addition to multiple RCA inputs. The L-100 Line Amplifier is a superior control center for digital systems and a perfect interface for separate phono amplifiers.
Our SQ-102 Phono Amplifier is based on the radical design of the phono section of our C-100 Reference Preamplifier, using a transconductance amplifier circuit with our world-class silver fitz wire and amorphous core step-up transformer. The circuitry is all direct coupled, using capacitors only for equalization. Astonishing detail, rich tonal color, and powerful dynamics are the benefits of this novel approach.

For our L-103 line amplifier, we refined the classic approach taken by manufacturers of the best vintage professional studio gear. We use a powerful output tube driven by a push-pull input stage, all directly-coupled circuit without capacitors, featuring a silver-wired, amorphous core line output transformer. Our line amp configuration will drive any tube or transistor amplifier on the market, using any cable, and provide compelling depth, precision, and solicitude in the musical presentation that will never happen with typical cathode follower line stages. The L-103 features a remote control switched attenuator and remote input switching for the best in modern convenience.

After one song, you will realize that you are listening to a new class of performance with Silbatone preamplifiers, the sound of progress in vacuum tube audio design!
Silbatone SQ-100 Phono Amplifier

The Silbatone SQ-100 phono amplifier offers the highest level of performance for archival reproduction, critical music analysis, and ultimate listening enjoyment. Using a novel JFET/D3c folded cascade hybrid stage in combination with a silver litz input transformer and careful attention to gain structure, the SQ-100 achieves ultra low noise performance (1 nV/√Hz) rarely achieved by state of the art solid state devices.

Phono equalization is implemented using pure silver LCR inductors on nickel cores. Relay switched playback EQ settings include RIAA and various obsolete formats for accurate playback of non-standard vintage recordings. Makeup gain is provided by a Western Electric 437A triode transformer coupled to a Bendix 6900 output stage. Controls phase invert and variable EQ are provided for optimization.

The SQ-100 is a specialized tool designed to do one job, phono reproduction, at the highest available level of technical and musical performance.
Silbatone C-102 MKIII Control Preamplifier

Among the Silbatone line of uncompromising preamplifiers, our C-102 MKIII design stands out for rich, emotional, and enjoyable musical performance. This is a preamplifier that we can truly recommend for all music lovers.

For maximum flexibility, dual silver litz step up transformers are provided to accommodate both low and medium impedance cartridges. Many phono enthusiasts use more than one turntable or multiple tonearms, with both SPU and modern MC cartridges, and the C-102 MKIII allows for input selection via a front panel control. One is no longer forced to choose between cartridge technologies because the C-102 MKIII selectable 1:10 and 1:20 MC transformers offer optimal configurations for all types!

The C-102 MKIII uses Western Electric small signal tubes in the phono section and a 12AY7/6900 line stage with a silver amorphous output transformer. Balanced inputs and outputs are provided, using a balanced configuration relay switched silver autoformers at the line input. Performance with line level sources is among the best we have heard.

We think of the C-102 MKIII as a control center for the discriminating audio generalist, featuring top-level music reproduction for multiple phono inputs and line sources. Why limit yourself to less?
Silbatone P-300 Mono Amplifiers

The world of audio has enjoyed a great revival of directly heated triode amplifiers, however the strengths of push-pull triode amps have been virtually neglected in the modern era. After all, the push-pull 300B Western Electric Model 85 was the premium theater amp of its day and the very famous single-ended WE 31 was an economy version!

The P-300 is our first entry into the push-pull 300B arena. This new direct-coupled, three-stage design conceived to bring the best of the 1930s into the third millennium. Although we are SE specialists, the power and dynamic accuracy of push-pull with the smooth and musical flavor of a great 300B amp provides a very exciting listening experience.

The P300 direct-coupled circuit uses a differential pair of WE310A pentodes, driving an RCA 6C8-G dual triode in a cross-coupled local feedback arrangement. The circuit is self-balancing for AC signals, providing long term stability and very high technical performance. The output stage has a separate power supply and no global feedback is used. Only silver wire and tubes are in the signal path from the input jack to the silver foil output transformer.

Our goal with the Silbatone P300 Mono Amplifiers is to do something special celebrate the glory of push-pull 300B's, the premier audio power tube of all time. Build quality of the P-300 exceeds that of all other amplifiers manufactured to date. Production of this presentation-quality instrument will be strictly limited to five pairs maximum.
RI-25 Integrated Amplifier with Ed and DA-100

At Silbatone, we understand that the first step in designing for superior audio is to select the best tubes for our products. Our new RI-25 Integrated amp is an extreme case, using insanely rare and expensive Ed and DA100 power triodes that are legendary for their performance. Most audiophiles and vintage collectors never get to see these items, let alone listen to them. We had to dig very deeply into our treasured vintage tube collection to produce this extraordinary limited edition amplifier.

The all-triode RI-25 uses Western Electric 437A voltage amplifiers, the legendary German Ed low mu triode as a driver, and the British DA100 for output tubes. The Siemens Ed is similar to a 2A3 but considered far superior by many listeners. The DA100 is roughly equivalent to the common 845 but it has a flavor all its own. Today these historical triodes are collectors’ items, the rarest of the rare, but they deserve to be heard and enjoyed.

When listening to the RI-25 amplifier, one is immediately impressed by the special musical character this instrument offers. It is a high powered single-ended implementation but it exhibits delicacy and detail on par with the most sophisticated low-power triode amps—a very colorful and emotional presentation, yet precise and well-controlled. We never heard anything else like the tasty sound of the RI-25 and we consider it to be a highly successful advanced experiment in the possibilities of tube amplification. Production of the RI-25 will be limited to 10 pieces.
Silbatone 300B Stereo Integrated Amplifiers

For over a decade, Silbatone has led the way with the finest stereo integrated tube amplifiers ever produced. The latest generation of our famed Ji-300 series, the Mark III, maintains our tradition of quality, value, and performance, with significant upgrades over previous models. As with all Silbatone products, build quality is far beyond other commercially-produced amplifiers. Teflon boards and silver internal cabling are employed for ultimate musically and detail and our exclusive semi-silver foil output transformer, built on exotic nickel material, pushes the limits of output transformer performance.

The Reference 300, our flagship 300B single amplifier, now features all directly-coupled circuitry for maximum purity and quality of musical reproduction. The new driver stage features a current feedback architecture using premium 7062 and 5687 dual triodes for very low distortion, large signal performance at an impressive bandwidth – 180Vb-p, -3dB at 20kHz into 100k ohms – a level of performance rarely achieved in any tube or solid state designs. There is little in the signal path except triode tubes and silver wire and no error correction or feedback is used in the final stage, an elegant solution that imparts very little of its own character, allowing the flavor of the 300B output stage and silver foil secondary output transformer to be presented in all its simple beauty.

The Reference 300 chassis are CNC milled from Swiss aluminum billet, designed for visual aesthetics and functional considerations such as shielding, cooling, and vibration control. Careful attention is paid to ergonomic and logical switching and I/O functions, using high-reliability switches, broadcast-grade 32 step attenuators, and the highest-quality connectors available. We designed the Reference 300 to be an effective and sophisticated control center for your music listening system.

The new Reference 300 Silver Signature version features remote-controlled sixty position (1dB/step) volume switching using a pure silver autoformer to provide the ultimate in sonic and ergonomic satisfaction.

The Ji-300 and Reference 300 series are easily the ultimate integrated amplifiers in existence today and we are quite confident that they are among the very finest music amplifiers on the market, even when compared to our own more expensive products. We achieve the highest musical potential of the classic WE300 triode with innovative designs engineered for today’s world-class systems.