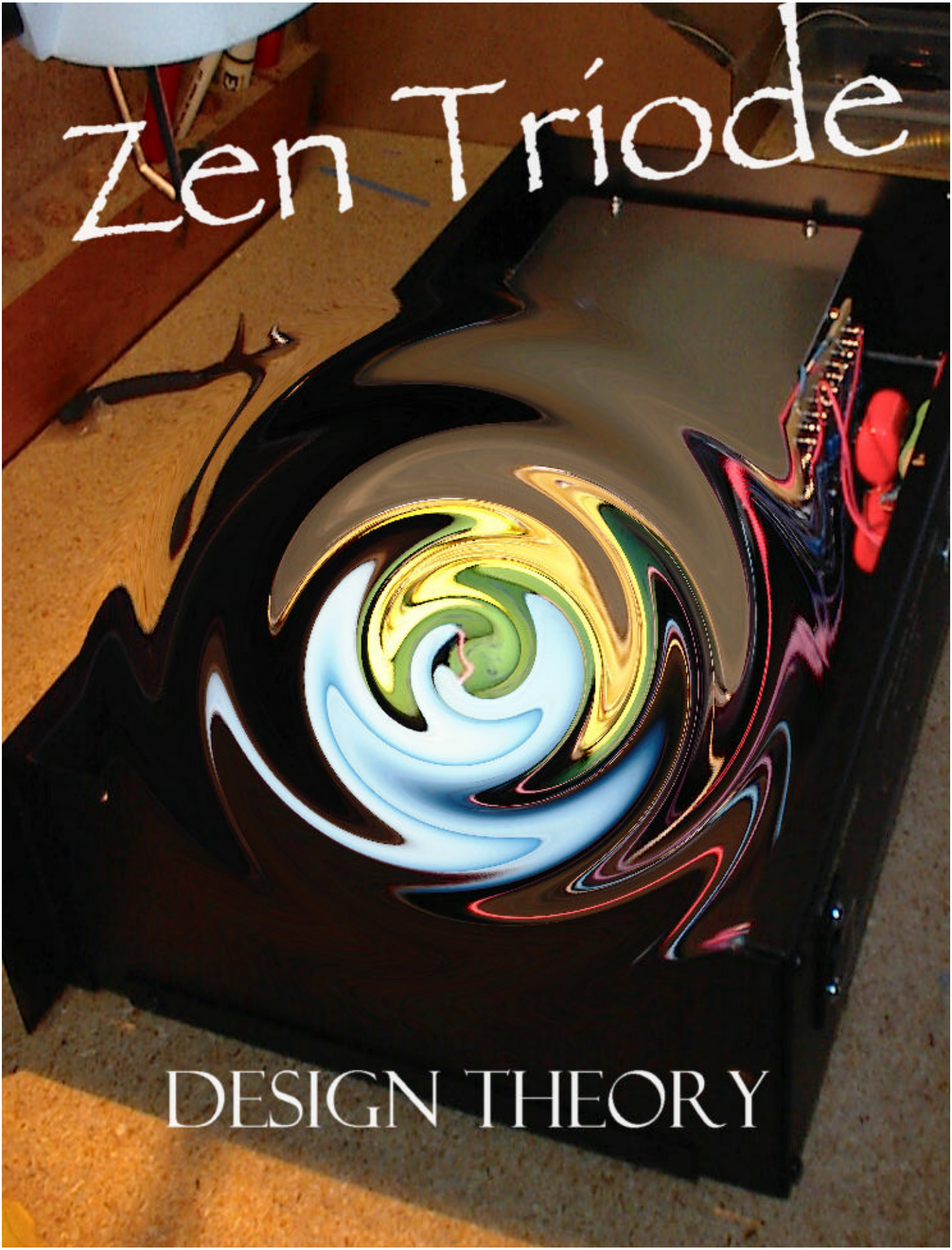
Zen Triode



DESIGN THEORY

ZTPRE DESIGN THEORY

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Well, the design is simple as far as the signal path; A single tube gain stage per channel with only a resistor and capacitor between the input and output jacks. No feedback, no regulation or solid state parts to contaminate the signature. To give it the heft and shear balls of other more complex circuits each channel has a pair of triodes hooked in parallel. This reduces distortion and increases slam and dynamic control in a big way. To keep the soundstage flawlessly clean with incredible depth and focus each channel is built as it's own mono amplifier all the way through it's separate remote dual mono power supply. Use poly caps throughout the power supply and top grade parts, forget circuit boards and skillfully silver solder every node in the circuit point to point. Place great emphasis on grounding techniques and use silver litz wire for all returns. Create a number of switches to selectively replicate all the things I like to do with my own gear—- like changing coupling caps while I listen, adjust the bias to effect the signature, change from an anode driven output stage to a cathode driven output stage so you can swing from very high gain to actual attenuation. In other words have the features to effect a great amount of control so that when you change amps, sources, speakers, wires, room treatments and etc. you can tweak your sound to compensate... that's an absolute must have. In a nutshell that is the ZTPRE, the Zen Triode Pre Amp which is a line level dual mono masterpiece of fidelity that can be compared to preamps in the price range of $2,500 US to infinity since we already know that price doesn't make things sound better. That said the ZTPRE is comparable to any preamp at any price and absolutely better than most without question for three main reasons: ZEN, The fact that's it's hand built forbidding mass production, and the fact that it's been tweaked and revised and improved for the last 18 months in over 40 different listening rooms with untold combinations of speakers amplifiers and listening tastes. This extraordinary effort was undertaken and maintained as a sequel to incredible success of the Zen Triode Amp and is out effort to put our best foot forward on the fidelity scale as we continue to season our business with equally fine products and no lemons!

Keep in mind that a Zen amp which has less than 13 solder points between the input and output jacks is subjectively sonically superior to 90% or more known high fidelity amplifiers. And we listen to THAT with a direct wire connected to our source... a very hard act to follow. In all the years I've personally had a high fidelity system, I have never found a preamp that didn't in some way veil the music when referenced against such a fine amplifier. When solid state or tube amplifiers with feedback were used, preamp veil was a non issue because it was less offensive by comparison to the veil of negative feedback in the power amps and couldn't be heard. My goal was to build a preamp fast enough and clean enough to not be detectable when compared to not using a preamp. The final end result not only did that, but greatly improved the fidelity of not only the Zen amp but every other amp we've tried with it. This in part due to the better impedance balancing between amp and source. It also is because of the lack of effort in most solid state output devices found in CD players and DACs. Using the ZTPRE restores lost dynamics and micro-dynamics and gives the music weight and volume with tremendous speed and delicacy. Equally at home as the leader of forehead-splitting thwack ability, the ZTPRE can un-homogenize and accurately portray complex heavy musical passages from classical, to hip-hop, or even heavy metal and speed metal in a way that makes you wonder if the musicians could hear even half that! On the flip side, good female vocals and a sax is done here as good as it gets.

Happy listening

Steve Deckert

Features	
Dual Mono	YES
Tubes Only	YES
Single Gain Stage	YES
No Circuit Boards	YES
Point to Point Wiring	YES
Separate Power Supply	YES
Dual Volume Controls	YES
DC tube filament supply	YES
Very Low Distortion	YES
Very Low Noise	YES
Very Low HUM	YES
No Negative Feedback	YES
Selectable Bias Settings	YES
Selectable Coupling Caps	YES
Selectable Output Level	YES
Triple RF Shielding	YES
Built-in Vibration Dampers	YES
1% Metal Film Resistors	YES
High Grade Film Caps	YES
All Poly Power Supply Caps	YES
Sliver Litz Ground Buss	YES
Paralleled Dual Triode Circuit	YES
High Gain OR Low Gain	YES
Dual Inputs - Switched	YES
3 Part Direct Signal Path	YES
Svetlana 6N1P Triodes	YES
Removable power cords	YES
24K GOLD HQ jacks	YES
30 day trial / lifetime warranty	YES

DECWARE ™ High Fidelity Engineering Co.

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