DOPE FROM HOPE

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GUARANTEE VOID!

Back in the Good Old Days of 10 and 20 watt aplifiers it was uncommon to experience loudspeaker failures. When 75 watts became common, occasional tweeter failures began to occur. Then with the advent of large solid-state amplifiers with their 240 instantaneous power peaks, tweeter failures became epidemic and woofers began to come apart at the compliance rings and voice coils began to tear loose from cones.

We have run 100 watts of rated amplifier power (at clipping levels) into a KLIPSCHORN for hours with no sign of damage. On the other hand, we witness failures using 60 watt amplifiers. We know the cause is due to surges, we know our speakers will take all the program material a 100 watt amplifier will put out, but we know the peak surges produced by pulling the signal input lead out of the power amplifier will put out square waves that have torn up loudspeakers.

So the time has come to define our so-far unwritten guarantee which has involved replacing driver units without question. In the future, driver units are not guaranteed. We will continue to replace damaged units, without charge, which appear on our investigation to have been due to defective materials or workmanship, but we must make a charge to replace driver units which are being damaged by higher peak power surges than they are intended to withstand.

Our speakers, type by type, will generate more output power without damage than other makes, and our tests indicate input power up to 100 watts of program material is tolerable in our high efficiency systems (KLIPSCHORN and LA SCALA). Reports from owners of other makes of apeakers indicate a higher rate of failures than with ours.

Forego the "prestige" of higher amplifier power than necessary. Exercise care when switching input. Avoid accidental open inputs. Keep non-program surges from occurring.

This seems to be a good time to condemn the connectors which are used on even the finest amplifiers; a connector should disconnect the "hot" lead before breaking the "ground" circuit and the nameless things do just the opposite. When one pulls a lead out of the main amplifier there is a split second when the ground is "open" and the input still "hot" and the amplifier output rises to whatever huge overload level its solid state system is capable. No fuse could be quick enough to protect against the hammer blow that is applied by the voice coil to the rest of the moving system.

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