

***UPDATING THE  
DYNACO STEREO 120  
SOLID STATE  
POWER AMPLIFIER  
(includes replacement  
power supply capacitors)***



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## **Section 1: About this Manual**

This manual gives you all the information you need to bring your Solid State Dynaco Stereo 120 Power Amplifier up to date using UpdateMyDynaco replacement modules. The only part of your Stereo 120 that really needs to work is the power supply. With this kit, you'll build good sounding, highly reliable amplifiers to replace the original amplifier modules.

This manual also includes information for installing the PSRC kit (power supply replacement capacitors) as you complete the rest of the assembly tasks.

### ***Who Should Attempt this Project?***

You can build this kit and update your Dynaco Stereo 120 if you can:

1. solder (using normal rosin core solder and a soldering iron).
2. use simple hand tools like screwdrivers, wire cutters, and pliers.
3. read and follow directions.

It helps if you:

1. know a bit about electronics, or
2. have a friend who knows a bit about electronics
3. can get to YouTube to watch a video about the assembly process

### ***Tools You'll Need***

You'll need the following tools to update your Stereo 120:

1. flat blade screwdriver for #6 screws
2. Phillips screwdriver (#2)
3. pliers or nut drivers suitable for #6 hardware (5/16" nut driver or hex wrench)
4. needle nose pliers (helpful, but not strictly necessary)
5. pencil type soldering iron of 25 to 50 Watts (no huge honking soldering guns or blowtorches)
6. wire cutters and strippers
7. multi-meter (helpful, but not strictly necessary)
8. magnifying glass, to verify identification codes on the 3 COG capacitors

### ***Project Overview***

The project consists of the following steps:

1. Removing the old amplifier modules, saving some parts for re-use.
2. Checking out the old Dynaco Stereo 120 power supply.
3. Assembling the updated amplifier module PC Boards.
4. Mounting the updated amplifier modules to the heat sinks.
5. Wiring in the updated amplifier modules.

## Important Safety Notes

By purchasing this kit, you have agreed to hold Akitika, LLC harmless for any injuries you may receive in its assembly and/or use. To prevent injuries:

- Wear safety glasses when soldering to prevent eye injuries.
- Always unplug the power before working on the amplifier.
- Large capacitors hold lots of energy for a long time. Before you put your hands into the amplifier:
  - Pull the AC plug!
  - Wait 1 full minute for the capacitors to discharge!
- Remove jewelry and rings from your hands and wrists, or anything that might dangle into the amplifier.
- If working in the amplifier, keep one hand in your pocket, especially if you're near the power supply or power supply wires. This can prevent serious shocks.
- Build with a buddy nearby. If you've ignored all the previous advice, they can dial 911 or get you to the hospital.

## Section 2: Saving the Stuff that Should Be Saved

### Opening the Amplifier

1. *Make sure the amplifier is unplugged. If it was recently powered allow the amp to sit for one full minute before proceeding.*
2. Remove the four screws along the outside edge of the bottom that hold the cover in place (see Figure 1).

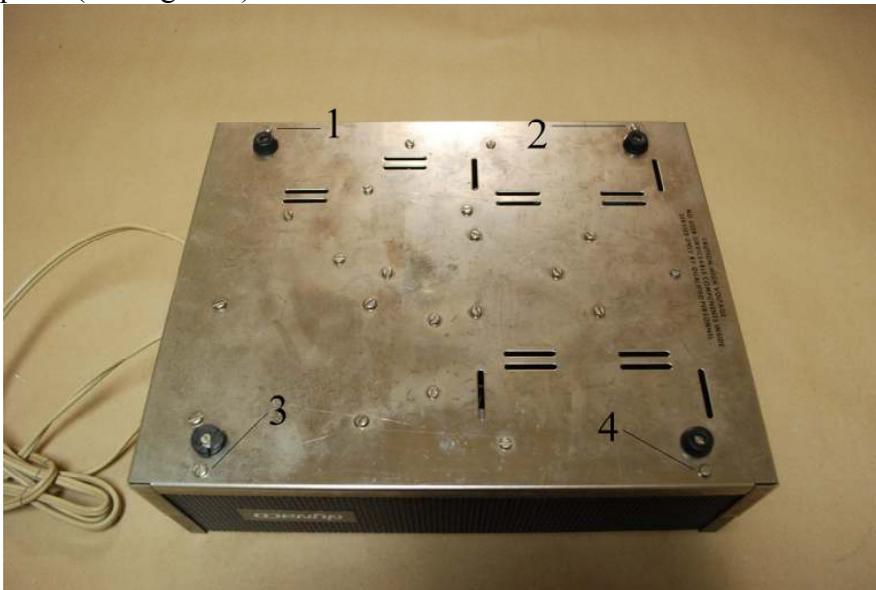


Figure 1-Location of the four screws that hold the cover to the base

3. Holding both the top and bottom of the amplifier, flip it over.

4. Lift the perforated metal top off of the amplifier.

### ***Cutting the wires on the old amplifier modules***

Refer to Figure 2. It shows where the wires must be cut to remove the old amplifier modules. Those cuts are detailed in the text below. Each cut is marked by an X.

#### **Removing the LEFT channel module**

1. To remove the LEFT channel module, cut the following wires close to the end that connects to the LEFT channel PC-14 module. Make only one cut per wire, leaving the wire attached at the end farthest from the LEFT PC-14 module.
  - a. Eyelets 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13
2. Cut the wire that attaches to Eyelet 5 of the PC-15 power supply circuit board close to the PC-15 circuit board.
3. Loosen the two screws that hold the left channel heat sink in place (note that one of the screws holds a mounting foot<sup>1</sup>). Save the hardware for later re-use.
4. Cut the red wire that connects to Q5's collector, close to the lug. Although there are multiple wires on the collector, only cut the wire that connects to C12.
5. Cut the black wire that connects to Q6's emitter, near the emitter. There are two wires on the emitter...you need only cut the wire that runs to the black left speaker binding post.

Save the LEFT module and mounting hardware. We will re-use the heat-sink and some other bits as described in "Salvaging the heat sinks from the amplifier modules".

#### **Removing the RIGHT channel module**

6. To remove the RIGHT channel module, cut the following wires close to the end that connects to the RIGHT channel PC-14 module. Make only one cut per wire, leaving the wire attached at the end farthest from the RIGHT PC-14 module.
  - a. Eyelets 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13
7. Loosen the two screws that hold the RIGHT channel heat sink in place (note that one of the screws holds a mounting foot<sup>2</sup>). Save the hardware for later re-use.
8. Cut the red wire that connects to Q5's collector, close to the lug. Although there are multiple wires on the collector, only cut the wire that connects to C12.
9. Cut the black wire that connects to Q6's emitter, near the emitter. There are two wires on the emitter...you need only cut the wire that runs to the black RIGHT speaker binding post.

Save the RIGHT module and mounting hardware. We will re-use the heat-sink and some of the other bits as described in "Salvaging the heat sinks from the amplifier modules".

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<sup>1</sup> If your mounting feet are falling apart, you can order a replacement set from [updatemydynaco.com](http://updatemydynaco.com).

<sup>2</sup> If your mounting feet are falling apart, you can order a replacement set from [updatemydynaco.com](http://updatemydynaco.com).





### **Removing C7 RIGHT**

1. Remove the 3 sets of #6 hardware that hold C7 RIGHT to the bottom of the chassis.
2. Unroll one foot of the wire that's wrapped around C7 RIGHT and connects to the RIGHT RED Binding post.
3. Cut this wire near C7 RIGHT so that about 1 foot of wire remains connected to the RIGHT RED Binding post.

### **Removing C7 LEFT**

4. Remove the 3 sets of #6 hardware that hold C7 LEFT to the bottom of the chassis.
5. Unroll one foot of the wire that's wrapped around C7 LEFT and connects to the LEFT RED Binding post.
6. Cut this wire near C7 LEFT so that about 1 foot of wire remains connected to the LEFT RED Binding post.

### **Removing the Output Zobel Networks**

1. Clip the lead of the 0.1 uF capacitor that connects to the RIGHT RED binding post, near the RIGHT RED Binding post.
2. Clip the lead of the 4.7 Ohm resistor that connects to the RIGHT BLACK binding post, near the RIGHT BLACK binding post.
3. Clip the lead of the 0.1 uF capacitor that connects to the LEFT RED binding post, near the LEFT RED Binding post.
4. Clip the lead of the 4.7 Ohm resistor that connects to the LEFT BLACK binding post, near the LEFT BLACK binding post.
5. Remove the terminal strip and the two attached resistors and capacitors.

Figure 4 shows what the amplifier should look like when you've completed this step.



## Salvaging the Heat Sinks from the Amplifier Modules



**Figure 5- Separating heat sinks and circuit boards**

Remove the four numbered nuts, bolts, and standoffs. Cut the wires that connect the power transistors to the circuit board. Remove the four screws that hold the power transistors to the heat sink. Remove the power transistors. Feel free to save everything for a later project. Remove the Mica insulators from the heat sink. After 40 years, they may be pretty stuck on...a single-edged razor slid between the insulator and the heat sink may be the easiest way to separate the two.

Save the old heat-sinks! They're part of the new assembly! Clean off the old thermal compound using Isopropyl Alcohol and paper towels. The best kind of isopropyl alcohol for the job is 90%. The typical 70% is ok, but will take more scrubbing. One motorhead who assembled the kit reports that carburetor cleaner is very effective. When you use Isopropyl alcohol or any other solvent, remember the following:

1. It's flammable! Keep it away from your soldering iron and don't smoke!
2. Use it in a well ventilated area.
3. *Try not to get too much on your skin!*

## Section 3: Checking the Stereo 120 Power Supply

This manual applies if you purchased PSRC, the power supply replacement capacitor kit. Even though we will replace C9, C11, and C12 with two larger capacitors, it's a good idea to check out the power supply before making any changes. Once you have completed section 3, move on to Section 4, covering the power supply capacitor replacement.

The only part of your old Stereo 120 that really needs to work is the power supply. After you've completed the previous section, only the power supply remains in the chassis. This section describes how to verify proper operation of the power supply.

***Make sure that the power cord is out, and has been out for at least 1 minute before starting this section.***

### ***Prepare and Connect the Test Load***

We'll recycle parts of the amplifier boards to make a test load resistor for the power supply. If you know that your power supply and regulator are working correctly, you may skip ahead to Section 5: Building the Updated Circuit Boards.

1. Keeping the leads as long as possible, remove two 300 Ohm power resistors from one of the PC-14 circuit boards. If you have any doubts about the resistors, check them with an ohm-meter.
2. Connect the two resistors in series, twisting and soldering.
3. Connect the series resistors across C12. Figure 6 shows how the test circuit will look. The ground side connection is a bit round-about, but it's there none the less.

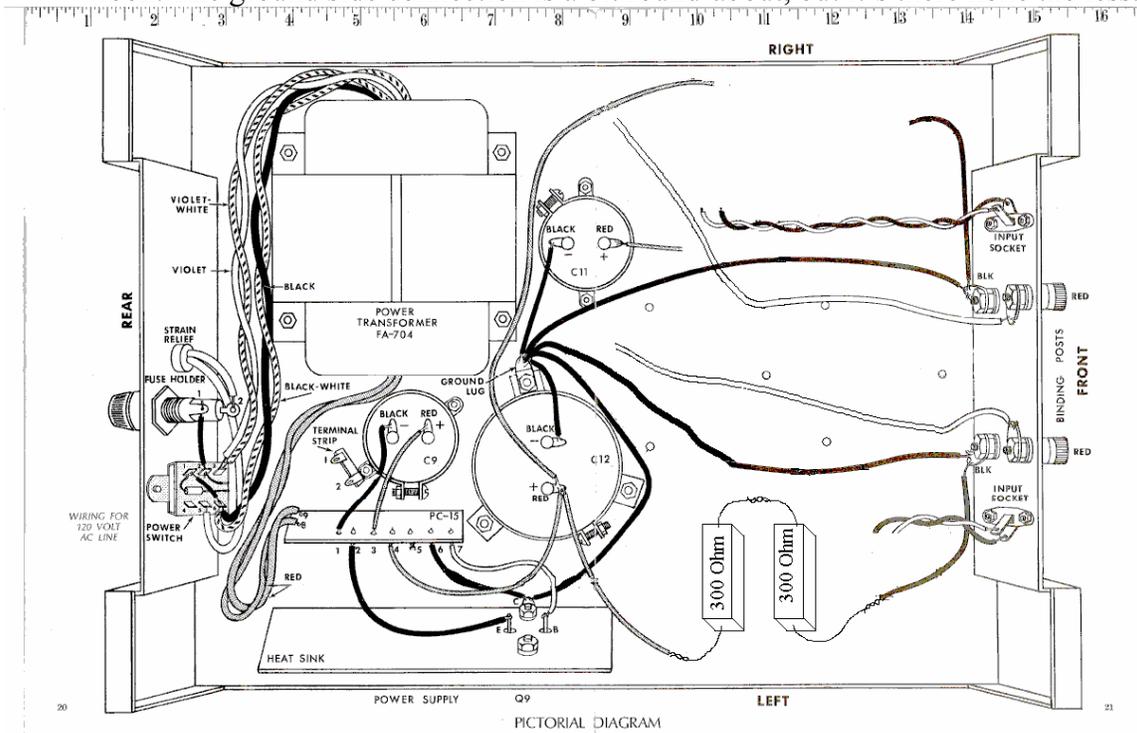


Figure 6-Connecting a test load to the power supply

### Test the Power Supply

4. Make sure that neither the resistors nor their connections rest on the chassis. This is important.
5. Make sure that none of the other dangling wires is making contact with anything else.
6. When everyone is clear of the amplifier, plug it in, and turn it on.
7. Measure the DC voltage on the terminals of C12.
8. The voltage should be between 68.4 and 75.6 Volts, with a nominal voltage of 72 Volts. If it falls in this range, your power supply checks out. Remove the load resistors and move onto section 4.

### Just In Case – Trouble Shooting

#### The Voltage is Much More than 75.6 volts

Most likely the pass transistor is shorted. However, repairing the power supply module is beyond the scope of this manual. You can complete Section 5: Building the Updated Circuit Boards, but don't move on to Section 6: Wiring In the Updated Amplifier

Modules until you have repaired the module. Check [www.updatemydynaco.com](http://www.updatemydynaco.com) , the Power Supply Circuit Description, for more information.

### ***The Voltage is Much Less than 68.4 volts***

Most likely the pass transistor is open. However, repairing the power supply pass module is beyond the scope of this manual. Don't continue until you have fixed the module. Check [www.updatemydynaco.com](http://www.updatemydynaco.com) , the Power Supply Circuit Description, for more information.

### ***There's No Voltage at All***

Check:

1. Is the AC socket powered?
2. Is the amp plugged in?
3. Is the power turned on?

Remove the power, check and replace the fuse with a properly rated fuse. Sometimes, fuses just get tired. Sometimes they blow to prevent a disaster. At this point, we're not sure what the case is here.

Maintaining a respectful distance, power the amp again, and observe if the fuse blows. If it blows quickly, unplug the amp, and go to [www.updatemydynaco.com](http://www.updatemydynaco.com) , the Power Supply Circuit Description, for more information. The FAQs at the end of the document may be especially helpful.

At this point, if you're scared, confused, or nervous, find someone who knows what they're doing to help you. Above all, be safe!

## **Section 4: Replacing the Large Power Supply Capacitors**

Once again, this section, and indeed this manual, only applies if you have PSRC, the power supply replacement capacitor kit.

***Make sure the amplifier is unplugged and has been unplugged for at least one minute before you work on anything inside the amp. This is especially true for work with the power supply that we are about to begin.***

### **Change C9**

1. Remove the old C9 (Refer to Figure 4).
  - a. Unsolder the red and black wires from the top of C9.
  - b. Unscrew and save the 2 6-32 screws, nuts and lock-washers that hold the capacitor mounting clamp to the chassis.
  - c. Remove the capacitor in its mounting clamp as a unit.
  - d. Loosen the remaining 6-32 screw and nut that provide the tension in the clamp that holds the capacitor in place.
  - e. Wiggle the old capacitor (1000  $\mu$ F @ 100 V) out and set it aside.

2. Install the new C9.
  - a. Take the new capacitor (3900  $\mu$ F @ 100 V) and wiggle it into the clamp. You may need to loosen or tighten the tensioning screw.
  - b. Orient the capacitor in the clamp so it won't be necessary to cross the red and black wires. The bottom of the capacitor should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the bottom of the bracket.
  - c. Tighten the clamp so that the capacitor is snug, but do not over tighten to avoid capacitor damage.
  - d. Use two 6-32 screws, nuts, and lock washers to fasten the capacitor and clamp to the chassis.
3. Solder the leads from the power supply to the new C9.
  - a. Solder the black lead (from PC-15 eyelet 1) to the NEGATIVE terminal of the new C9.
  - b. Solder the red lead (from PC-15 eyelet 3) to the POSITIVE terminal of the new C9.

***Be careful about the capacitor polarity! Check it twice, then check it again. If you get this wrong, the capacitor will be damaged, throwing hot aluminum foil with impressive force. The negative signs on the capacitor mark the negative terminal.***



**Figure 7-Identifying the positive and negative terminals**



**Figure 8 - showing the new C9 installed.**

## Updating C11 and C12

1. Remove the old C11.
  - a. Clip the red and black wires that attach to C11, cutting them near the terminals of C11 (See Figure 4Figure 6).
  - b. Remove the two 6-32 screws, nuts, and lock-washers that hold C11's mounting clamp to the chassis.
  - c. Remove C11 along with its clamp.
  - d. Loosen the remaining 6-32 screw and nut that provide the tension in the clamp that holds the capacitor in place.
  - e. Wiggle the old capacitor (500  $\mu\text{F}$  @ 100 V) out and set it aside.
2. Install the new C11 as follows:
  - a. Take the new capacitor (3900  $\mu\text{F}$  @ 100 V) and wiggle it into the clamp. You may need to loosen or tighten the tensioning screw.
  - b. The bottom of the capacitor should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the bottom of the bracket.
  - c. Tighten the clamp so that the capacitor is snug, but do not over tighten to avoid capacitor damage.
  - d. Use two 6-32 screws, nuts, and lockwashers to fasten the capacitor and clamp back to the chassis.
  - e. Crimp, then solder antenna-like wires onto the new C11, as shown in Figure 4. These wires will be used for the rest of the power and ground connections to the power supply.



**Figure 9 - crimp and solder "antenna-like" wires to terminals of C11 to facilitate the connection of the power supply and amplifier wires**

3. Remove the old C12. C12 will not be re-used.
  - c. Clip the red and black wires that attach to C12, cutting them near the terminals of C12.

- d. Remove the three 6-32 screws, nuts, and lock-washers that hold C12's mounting clamp to the chassis. One of these screws also holds the star ground lug.
  - e. Cut the 5 attached black wires near the star ground lug. 2 of the wires, those that previously went to the negative terminals of C11 and C12, will now be loose. 3 wires will remain attached on one end:
    - i. 1 to the black speaker binding post for the right channel
    - ii. 1 to the black speaker binding post for the left channel
    - iii. 1 to the collector of Q9.
4. Crimp and solder the black wire from the collector of Q9 to the negative terminal of C11, on the "antenna-like" wire, closest to the terminal.
  5. De-solder the old red wire from PC-15 eyelet 4. Clear the eyelet to ready it for a new wire. If you don't have standard de-soldering equipment, you can heat the eyelet and insert a wooden toothpick. This will displace the solder and make room for a new wire.
  6. Cut an 8" length of red wire. Remove ¼" of insulation from both ends. Solder one end into PC-15 eyelet 4. Crimp and solder the other end around the antenna like wire connected to the positive terminal of C11, closest to the capacitor terminal.

At this point, the power supply is again functional. The regulated output voltage, nominally 72 volts, should appear across C11. The remainder of the power supply and ground wiring is completed in a later section.

## **Section 5: Building the Updated Circuit Boards**

This section details the process of building the circuit boards. We start with an overview on this page. The specifics you need to start building begin on the next page.

In general, you'll start with the components that lay closest to the board, working your way toward the taller components. You will:

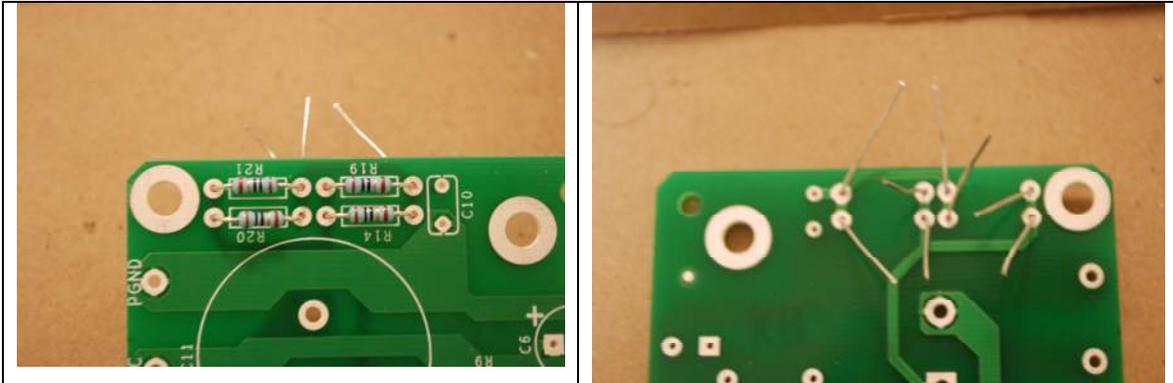
1. Install the resistors
2. Install the small capacitors
3. Install the diodes
4. Install the LEDs
5. Install the medium size capacitors
6. Install the transistors
7. Install the big capacitor
8. Wind and install the output inductor.
9. Install the LM3886.

### ***Install the Resistors***

In general, you install the resistors by placing the body on silk screen side of the board, and the leads through the indicated holes. Bend the leads over on the back of the board to keep the resistors from falling out until your solder them in place. Try to bend the leads in a direction that won't lead to solder bridges between traces that should remain disconnected.

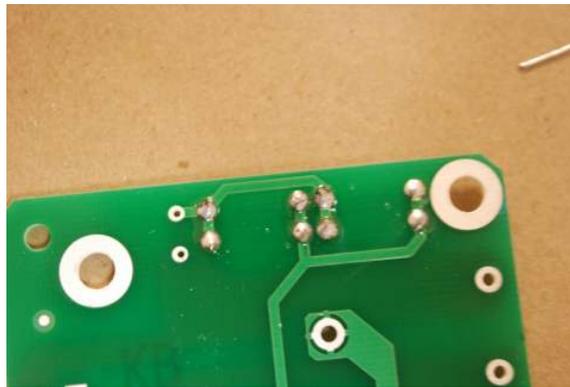
We recommend the following procedure:

1. Insert all the resistors of the same value, e.g. R14, R19, R20, and R21.
2. Bend the leads as described above.
3. Solder the leads on the back of the board.
4. clip the leads.



**Figure 10-**The first four resistors are installed with leads bent on the back side, but not yet soldered.

Turn the page for specific directions about each resistor.



**Figure 11-**leads soldered and clipped

*When you're done this section, there will only be one empty resistor slot, R16, a no-load, which will remain empty.*

Keep track of your progress by placing a check-mark in the done column as every resistor is installed. The resistor values can be checked with a meter, or by reading the color code<sup>3</sup>. Orient the resistor with the fat brown band on the right, then you can read both the Color Code column and the resistor from left to right.

---

<sup>3</sup> See "Resistor Color Code" on page 32 to see how to read resistor color codes.

Designation	Value	Color Code	Done?
R14	10	Brown, Black, Black, Gold, Brown	
R19	10	Brown, Black, Black, Gold, Brown	
R20	10	Brown, Black, Black, Gold, Brown	
R21	10	Brown, Black, Black, Gold, Brown	
R13	100	Brown, Black, Black, Black, Brown	
R1	100K	Brown, Black, Black, Orange, Brown	
R2	100K	Brown, Black, Black, Orange, Brown	
R3	100K	Brown, Black, Black, Orange, Brown	
R5	100K	Brown, Black, Black, Orange, Brown	
R7	100K	Brown, Black, Black, Orange, Brown	
R8	100K	Brown, Black, Black, Orange, Brown	
R4	1K	Brown, Black, Black, Brown, Brown	
R6	1K	Brown, Black, Black, Brown, Brown	
R9	1K	Brown, Black, Black, Brown, Brown	
R10	1K	Brown, Black, Black, Brown, Brown	
R18	1K	Brown, Black, Black, Brown, Brown	
R11	20K	Red, Black, Black, Red, Brown	
R12	20K	Red, Black, Black, Red, Brown	
R17	2K87	Red, Gray, Violet, Brown, Brown	
R15	10 (1 Watt)	Brown, Black, Black, Gold, Brown. This resistor has a larger body than the others.	
R16		This Location Remains Empty	

Note: R8 and R18 are near each other on the board. Be careful...don't mix them up!

### ***Install the Small Capacitors and the Diodes***

Now we'll install the following small capacitors:

Designation	Value	Marking	Done?
C3	220 pF	221	
C4	220 pF	221	
C9	47 pF	470	

Here's what these three caps look like (not to scale):



Next we install diodes D1 and D4.

<i>Be careful! Diodes have a polarity. Make sure the band on the diode aligns with the banded end of the silk screen!</i>			
Designation	Value	Marking	Done?
D1	1N4004	4004	
D4	1N4004	4004	

Here's what the diodes look like (not to scale):



Next we install LEDs D2 and D3 (Light Emitting Diodes – note that in normal operation, these diodes will be dark. However, in a fully darkened room, you’ll see a dull green glow from the powered LEDs.)

*Be careful! Light Emitting Diodes have a polarity, also! Read carefully to make sure you’re putting the diodes in the right way! The cathode of the LED is indicated by a bar (negative sign) molded into the package. On some packages, there is no bar, but seen from the top, the circular outline will have a flat side. That flat side is the cathode. Finally, if the leads are uncut, the shorter of the two leads will be the cathode.*

Designation	Value	Marking	Done?
D2	T1 style	none	
D3	T1 style	none	

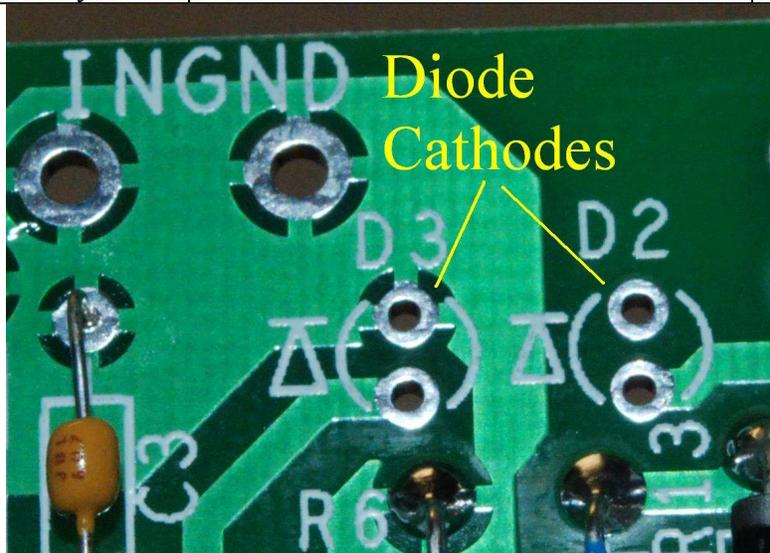


Figure 12-showing LED cathode orientation

### **Last Capacitors and the Transistors**

Now, the medium tall polarized electrolytic capacitors:

*C1 and C6 are polarized. Make sure the negative sign on the capacitors faces away from the positive sign on the silk screen!*

Designation	Value	Marking	Done?
C1	47 $\mu$ F, 63 V	47 $\mu$ F, 63 V, and minus sign for polarity	
C6	47 $\mu$ F, 100 V	47 $\mu$ F, 100 V, and minus sign for polarity	

And the non-polarized capacitors:

Designation	Value	Marking	Done?
C2	1 $\mu$ F, 63 V or 100V	1 uF, 63 V or 100V (box shaped mylar capacitor)	
C5	0.1 $\mu$ F, 100V	104	
C8	0.1 $\mu$ F, 100V	104	
C10	0.1 $\mu$ F, 100V	104	

Install the transistors. Spread the outside leads a bit to make it easier to insert them into the board.

*Orient the transistor so its body shape matches the silk-screen outline. Leave the top of the transistor about 1/2" off the board! The lead length prevents stress on the body and keeps the transistor safe from too much heat during the soldering operation.*

Designation	Value	Marking	Done?
Q1	2N5551, NPN	2N5551	
Q2	2N5551, NPN	2N5551	
Q3	2N5551, NPN	2N5551	

Now install the speaker coupling capacitor:

*Watch the polarity! Make sure the minus sign faces away from the plus sign on the silk screen. That puts the minus side of the cap along the outer edge of the circuit board.*

Designation	Value	Marking	Done?
C11	3300 uF 63V	3300 uF, 63 WVDC	

The speaker coupling capacitor will either snap or push into place. Verify once more that you have polarity correct, and then solder both speaker terminals to the circuit board. This will probably take more heat, time, and solder than anything you have soldered up to now.

## ***Winding the Output Inductor***

This step takes just a bit of finesse, but if you've come this far, you have nothing to worry about. If you're a bit frazzled, take a break before proceeding.

There...feel better? OK, let's go. Just follow these steps, ***measuring the wire length carefully if you want to succeed the on first shot.***

1. Cut a 21 1/2" length of solid wire. A great place to get it is from the output inductors wound around the old Dynaco output capacitors.
2. Strip back 3/8" of insulation from both ends of the wire. Be careful not to nick the conductors.
3. From the component side, place one stripped end of the wire into the L1A terminal. Route it around the output capacitor as shown in (see Figure 13) Solder the wire into the L1A hole.

4. Wind 5 turns of wire, closely spaced, so it looks like Figure 14. When you get to the end of the coil, fold the end across the existing turns, toward the L1B hole.
5. Pull the end of the wire through the L1B hole, and solder it on the back of the board.



Figure 13-Starting to wind the output inductor



Figure 14-finishing step for the output inductor

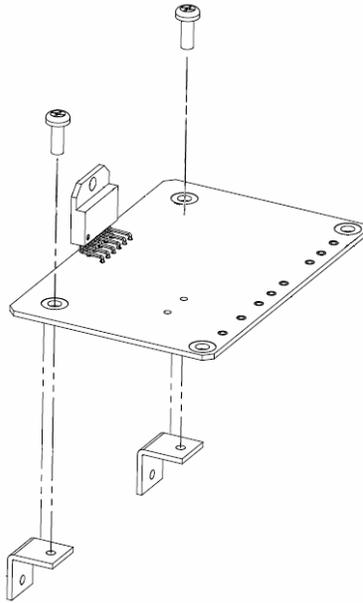
### ***Solder the LM3886 into the Board***

This is the last step in stuffing the circuit board. By now, you are pretty good at soldering. Your skill will help you with this step. Just follow the instructions calmly and carefully, and you'll do just fine.

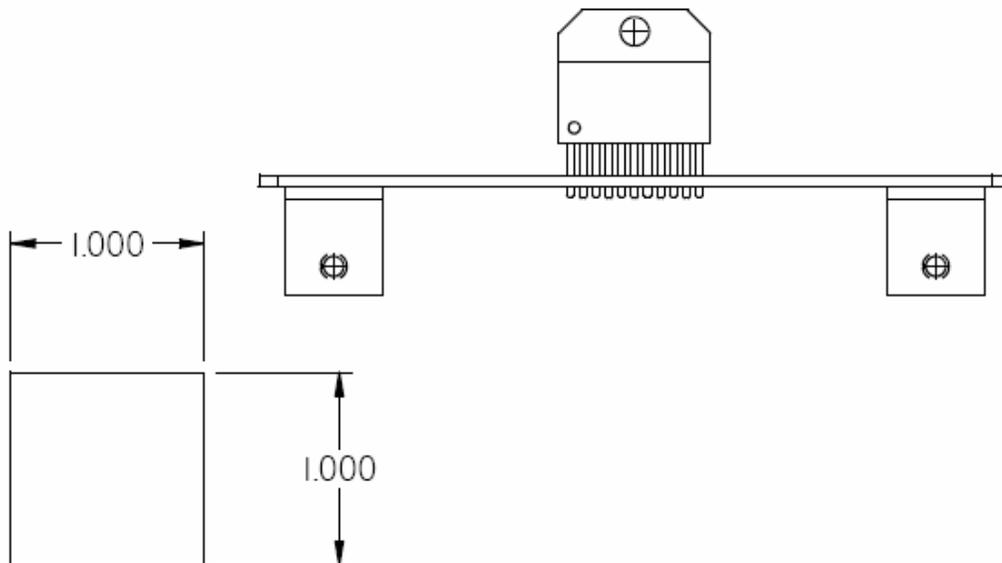
1. You'll start with one small bit of mechanical assembly as shown in Figure 15. Use two #6-3/8" Phillips head screws (they have captive lock-washers) to fasten two brackets to the solder side of the amplifier PC board. Watch the bracket orientation, and don't install any more fasteners at this time!
2. With the brackets attached to the PC board, use the template in Figure 16 to check the LM3886 mounting height. If your printer has printed to the correct scale, the square in the figure should be very nearly 1" by 1". Print this page, and set the board and brackets against the page to check the LM3886's height above the board.
3. Match the outline of the LM3886 and the PC board to the drawing. When the match is pretty good, ***solder one corner pin*** of the LM3886. Recheck the match, and ***solder an opposite corner pin*** (see Figure 17). If something has moved, just reheat the corner pins and pull the LM3886 in or out as needed. If you miss a right angle by a little, don't worry. Since you've only soldered two pins down, it's easy

enough to reheat those two pins, and move the LM3886 up and down a bit until it sits at the right height.

4. Check your work:
  - a. The LM3886 body should sit up off the board to avoid short circuits between the rows of pins (See Figure 18).
  - b. The LM3886 body should sit at right angles to the plane of the board. If the result comes up a bit away from a right angle, don't worry. The mounting system is compliant enough that this won't be a problem.
5. Solder all the remaining pins of the LM3886 to the PCB.

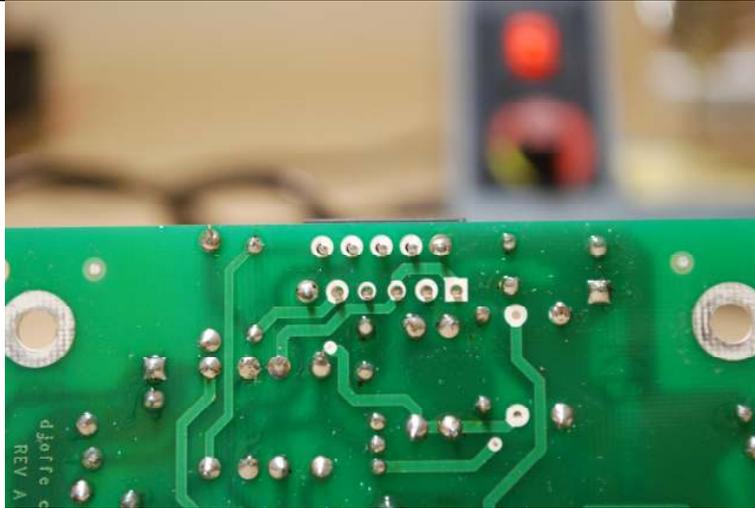


**Figure 15-Showing method of attaching brackets to the PCB**



**Figure 16-Template for checking mounting height of LM3886**

*Carefully inspect your soldering. Make sure that all pins of the LM3886 are soldered, and that there are no solder bridges between pins. Inspect the board from both the top and the bottom!*



**Figure 17-LM3886 installation step three, just the corner pins are soldered**



**Figure 18-The LM3886 sits up off the board to avoid shorts between the front and back rows of pins. The body should be at right angles to the circuit board**

### ***Final Inspection of the Circuit Board***

After you've taken a break, look over your completed circuit board(s) one more time. Looking on the component side, double check:

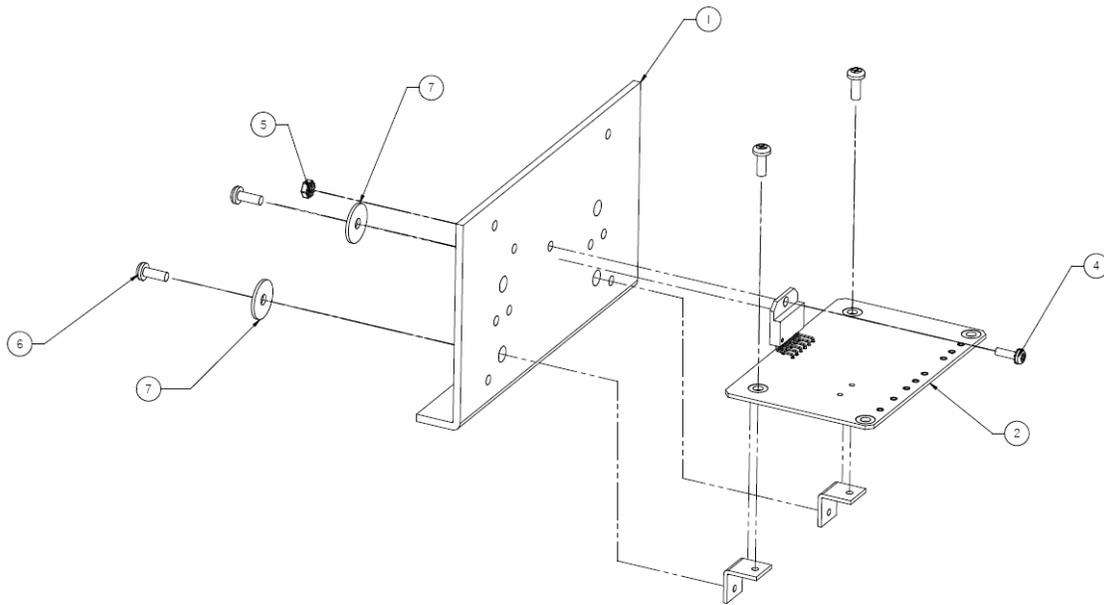
1. polarity (banded end) of D1 and D4 matching the banded end on the silk screen.
2. polarity (flat end, or molded bar end) of LEDs D2 and D3, placed toward the outside edge of the board.
3. polarity of C1 (minus sign away from the indicated plus sign on the silk screen).
4. polarity of C6 (minus sign away from the indicated plus sign on the silk screen).
5. polarity of C7 (minus sign close to the edge of the board).

If you get one of these polarities wrong, there is a good chance that the amplifier won't work, or there will be damage when you power it up.

Look at the solder side of the board. Make sure that:

1. All component leads are soldered (it's easy to forget one or two, and that will cause either unreliable operation, or no operation at all!)
2. There are no solder bridges between pads which should be isolated. Solder bridges may stop the amplifier from working correctly.

### ***Mounting the Updated Amplifier Board to the Heat Sink***

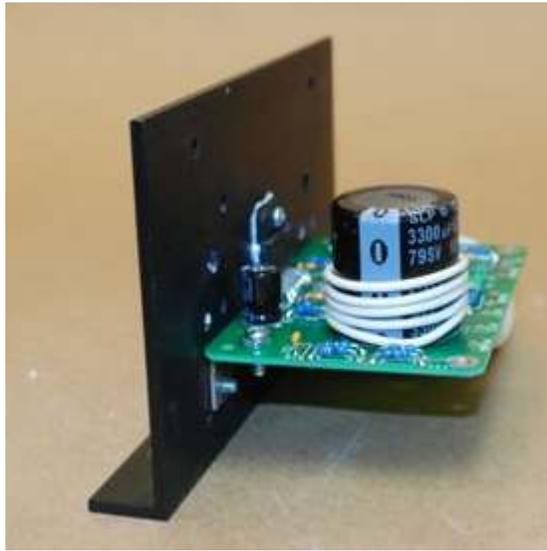


**Figure 19-Mounting assembled PCB to heat sink**

1. In addition to the assembled circuit board with the mounting brackets in place, have the following items ready:
  - a. The heat sink plate
  - b. 4-40 screw and nut with captive lock-washer (callouts 4 and 5 in Figure 19).
  - c. Qty 2 of #6 fender washers, and Qty 2 of #6-32x3/8" Phillips head screws with built-in lock washers (callouts 6 and 7 in Figure 19).
  - d. Thermal compound
2. Cut a corner of the 4-gram packet of thermal compound. If you use it appropriately, that's enough to do everything you need. Place a line of thermal compound onto the back of the LM3886. Use your finger to smear the line into a

thin film covering on the back of the LM3886. Save the rest of the thermal compound for other steps in the assembly.

3. Assemble the LM3886 and circuit board to the heat-sink plate as shown in Figure 15, using the 4-40 hardware, just finger-tight.
4. Square up the assembly of the circuit board to the heat sink, and use the #6 screws and fender washers to fasten the brackets to the heatsink. The #6 screws and fender washers leave enough wiggle room to make assembly fairly non-critical. Just make everything finger tight at first to make sure it all looks even and fits well without strain.
5. When everything looks good, progressively tighten all the hardware except for the #4 hardware.
6. Finally, tighten the #4 hardware that holds the LM3886 to the heat sink.



**Figure 20-a completed amplifier module**

7. Repeat the process to build the amplifier module for the second channel.

## **Section 6: Wiring In the Updated Amplifier Modules**

This section gives the steps needed to wire the new modules into your old amplifier. Here's the plan:

1. Revise the Power System
2. Complete the ground system
3. Replace the left and right channel input wiring.
4. Connect all the wires to the amplifier modules.
5. Fasten the amplifier modules in place.

### ***Revise the Power System***

1. Cut the supplied 24" length of red-black wire into two 12" lengths.
2. For the first 12" piece, remove 1/2" of insulation from the red and black wires at one end.
3. Repeat this for the second 12" piece of red and black wire.

4. Wrap the red wire of the first red-black wire around the bare wire that connects to C11's positive terminal, next to the red wire that attaches to PC-15 eyelet 4.
5. Wrap the red wire of the second red-black wire around the bare wire that connects to C11's positive terminal, next to the previous wire.
6. Wrap the black wire of the first red-black wire around the bare wire that connects to C11's negative terminal, next to the black wire that comes from Q9's collector.
7. Wrap the black wire of the second red-black wire around the bare wire that connects to C11's negative terminal, next to the previous wire.
8. Strip 1/2" of insulation from one end of the 18 AWG stranded wire supplied with the kit. Wrap this around the bare wire that connects to C12's negative terminal, next to the previous wire.
9. Solder all the wires on C12.

### Complete the Ground System

Please refer to Figure 21. It shows how the completed wiring will look.

1. Locate the centrally located hole in the chassis nearest the input/output panel. It previously was used for an output capacitor mounting bracket. We will locate a new star-ground lug in that hole, fastened with a 6-32 screw and nut. Don't screw the lug down at this time.
2. Connect these three wires to the ground lug. Cut their lengths to fit comfortably.
  - a. The black wire from C11's negative terminal.
  - b. The shorter black wire from the right channel speaker binding post.
  - c. The shorter black wire from the left channel speaker binding post.

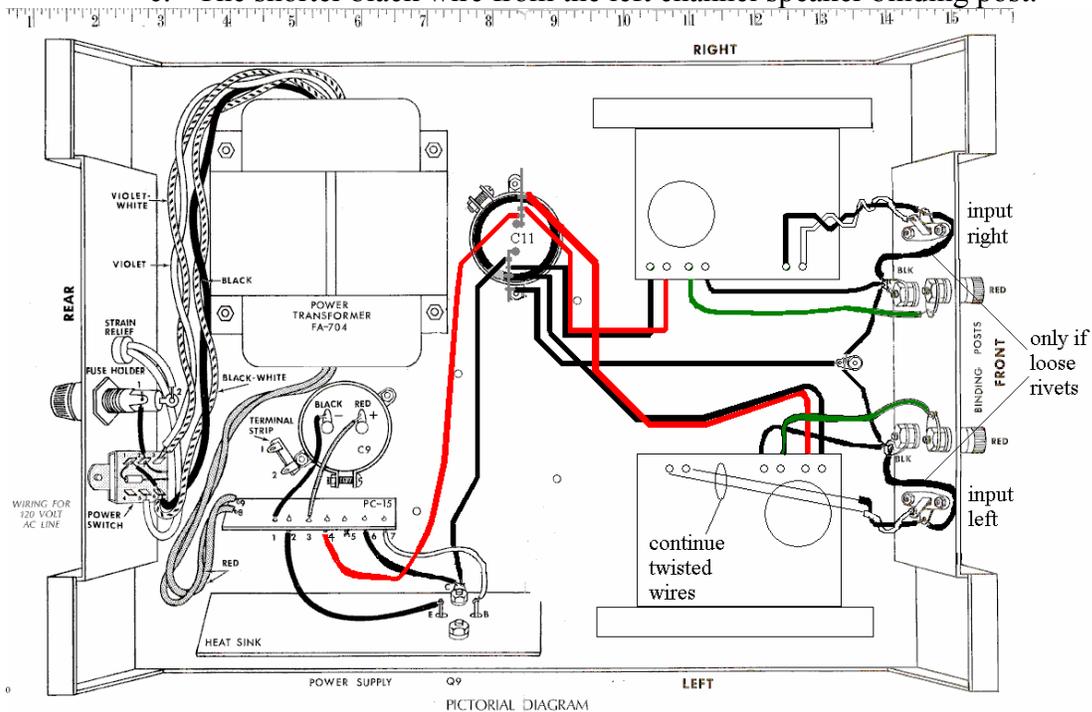


Figure 21-completed wiring

## ***Wiring the Inputs***

1. Right Channel – Remove the old wires from the input connector.
  - a. Take one black-white twisted pair and cut it to a 4” length<sup>4</sup>.
  - b. Strip ¼” of insulation off both sides of the two wires.
2. Connect the black/white twisted pair to the right channel input jack.
  - a. Solder the black wire to the shorter terminal (ground).
  - b. Solder the white wire to the longer terminal
3. Left Channel – Remove the old wires from the input connector.
  - a. Cut the second black-white twisted pair to a 5.5” length.
  - b. Strip ¼” of insulation off both sides of the two wires.
4. Connect the black/white twisted pair to the Left channel input jack.
  - a. Black wire to the shorter terminal (ground)
  - b. White wire to the longer terminal

## ***Wiring the Outputs***

Both red speaker output terminals should have 16 AWG white wires still connected. (For clarity, this is shown in green in Figure 21.)

1. Form the left channel wire toward the place where the left channel amplifier module will sit.
2. Form the right channel wire toward the place where the right channel amplifier module will sit.

## ***Connecting the Left Channel Amplifier Module***

1. Set the left channel amplifier board and heat sink assembly in place. Don’t mount it to the chassis yet. Note that the new PCB should face the center of the amplifier chassis.
2. Select one red-black pair connected to C11 to power the left channel board:
  - a. From the solder side of the board, insert the left channel red wire through the left channel VCC eyelet and solder it on the component side.
  - b. From the solder side of the board, insert the left channel black wire through the left channel PGND eyelet and solder it on the component side.
3. For the black and white twisted pair that brings signal to the left channel board:
  - a. From the component side of the board, insert the left channel black wire through the left channel INGND eyelet and solder it on the solder side.
  - b. From the component side of the board, insert the left channel white wire through the left channel INPUT eyelet and solder it on the solder side.
4. Dress the remaining black wire coming from the left channel black speaker binding post to one of the OGND terminals of the left channel amplifier. Cut it to length and remove ¼” of insulation. Insert it into the OGND terminal from the solder side of the board, and solder it on the component side of the board.

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<sup>4</sup> This may seem a bit long to you, but lets you position the modules for inspection or re-work without unsoldering the input wires. Feel free to make these wires shorter once you are comfortable with the amplifier’s performance.

5. Dress the white wire from the left channel red speaker binding post to the OUT eyelet of the left channel amplifier. Remove ¼” of insulation, and insert the wire from the solder side. Solder on the component side.
6. Check your work. One The following eyelets on the PCB should each have a wire:
  - a. VCC (red wire of the red-black pair)
  - b. PGND (black wire of the red-black pair)
  - c. IGND (black wire of the black-white twisted pair)
  - d. INPUT (white wire of the black-white twisted pair)
  - e. OGND (black white from the left channel black speaker binding post)
  - f. OUTPUT (wire from the left channel red speaker binding post).
7. Make sure that the bottom lip of the heat sink is clean, and also the place where it mounts to the chassis. Place a line of thermal compound along the bottom of the short part of the heat sink. Smear it into a thin film using a finger.
8. Mount the heat sink to the chassis using salvaged 6-32x1/2” hardware. Remember that the outside mounting screw also carries a mounting foot.

### ***Connecting the Right Channel Amplifier Module***

9. Set the right channel amplifier board and heat sink assembly in place. Don’t mount it to the chassis yet. Note that the new PCB should face the center of the amplifier chassis.
10. Select one red-black pair connected to C11 to power the right channel board:
  - a. From the solder side of the board, insert the right channel red wire through the right channel VCC eyelet and solder it on the component side.
  - b. From the solder side of the board, insert the right channel black wire through the right channel PGND eyelet and solder it on the component side.
11. For the black and white twisted pair that brings signal to the right channel board:
  - a. From the component side of the board, insert the right channel black wire through the right channel INGND eyelet and solder it on the solder side.
  - b. From the component side of the board, insert the right channel white wire through the right channel INPUT eyelet and solder it on the solder side.
12. Dress the remaining black wire coming from the right channel black speaker binding post to one of the OGND terminals of the right channel amplifier. Cut it to length and remove ¼” of insulation. Insert it into the OGND terminal from the solder side of the board, and solder it on the component side of the board.
13. Dress the white wire from the right channel red speaker binding post to the OUT eyelet of the right channel amplifier. Remove ¼” of insulation, and insert the wire from the solder side. Solder on the component side.
14. Check your work. One The following eyelets on the PCB should each have a wire:
  - a. VCC (red wire of the red-black pair)
  - b. PGND (black wire of the red-black pair)
  - c. IGND (black wire of the black-white twisted pair)
  - d. INPUT (white wire of the black-white twisted pair)
  - e. OGND (black white from the right channel black speaker binding post)

- f. OUTPUT (wire from the right channel red speaker binding post).
15. Make sure that the bottom lip of the heat sink is clean, and also the place where it mounts to the chassis. Place a line of thermal compound along the bottom of the short part of the heat sink. Smear it into a thin film using a finger.
16. Mount the heat sink to the chassis using salvaged 6-32x1/2" hardware. Remember that the outside mounting screw also carries a mounting foot.

### ***Making the Speaker Binding Posts User Friendly***

The speaker binding posts have holes for the speaker wire. These holes should be oriented from side to side, not up and down, to allow easy connection of the speaker wires. If your binding posts are already correctly oriented, skip this step. If not, here's the procedure that should be applied to whichever of the 4 binding posts don't have the correct orientation:

1. Loosen the binding post (red or black plastic part) until you can see the hole in the mounting stud.
2. Loosen and remove the nut that holds the speaker connection wires. Remove the speaker wire lugs, noting their locations so that they may be correctly returned.
3. Loosen the remaining nut just enough to be able to spin the binding post to the correct orientation. Keep the binding post from turning as you tighten it with a nail (or stout toothpick) through the wire hole.
4. Replace the solder lugs with the speaker connection wires.
5. Replace and tighten the nuts that hold those lugs in place.

## **Section 7: Testing the Completed Amplifier**

It's best to test the completed amplifier one step at a time. In that manner, if you have something wrong, you may damage the amplifier module, but you won't damage your speakers.

### ***Test #1***

1. Disconnect signal inputs and speakers from the amplifier.
2. Turn the power switch off.
3. Plug in the amplifier.
4. Turn the power switch on.
5. Observe the amplifier for a minute.
  - a. It will make a "bong" sound when you turn on the power switch, but after that about all you should hear is a soft humming sound from the power transformer.
  - b. Watch for smoke. There should be no smoke. If you see smoke, turn off the amplifier immediately, take a few deep breaths, and refer to the troubleshooting section.
  - c. Feel the heat-sinks. There should be no appreciable heating.
6. In all but a very dark room, the LED soft glow should be invisible. If the LEDs glow brightly in a well lit room, you have probably mis-loaded some resistors.

If this all goes well, (no smoke or excess heating) leave the power on and move on to Test #2.

## **Test #2**

1. If you have a DC voltmeter, check the voltage on the speaker outputs.
  - a. Left channel red to black binding post should show a DC voltage of less than 100 mV if the amp has been on for about 1 minute<sup>5</sup>. The longer the amp is on, the lower the DC output voltage will be.
  - b. Repeat this test for the Right channel speaker binding posts.

If this result is ok, go on to test 3. If this result is not correct (e.g. speaker binding posts have a few volts of DC after the amp has been on for more than 1 minute), then re-check:

- Polarity of C7
- R17 is installed and has the correct value (2870 Ohms)
- That one of the OGND terminals has a ground wire installed.

## **Test #3**

1. Hook speakers up to the binding posts. There may be a very soft click as you hook up the speaker.
2. The speakers should be rather quiet at this point, perhaps with barely audible hiss or hum if you place your ear near sensitive speakers. Any more noise than this probably indicates either an assembly error or a power supply problem.

## **Test #4**

1. Turn off the amplifier power.
2. Connect your preamp output to the power amplifier input.
3. Turn down the preamp volume.
4. Turn on the amplifier power. You may hear a soft click or thump from your speakers.
5. After about 15 seconds, turn up you preamp volume to the desired listening level, and enjoy your amplifier.

The amplifier has special slow turn-on features that avoid pops and clicks in the speakers at turn-on without the need for relays. The DC bias voltages in the amplifier will thus take 30 seconds or so to reach steady state. During that time, you may hear some distortion. Don't worry, it will clear up perfectly in 30 seconds unless you are over-driving the amp, or something is wrong. Think of it like a tube amp...it takes 30 seconds to warm up.

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<sup>5</sup> The DC voltage will drop to very nearly zero in 15 seconds if a speaker is connected.

Update My Dynaco  
 Power Amplifier Module  
 for the Stereo 120  
 January 2011  
 Copyright Daniel Joffe  
 All Rights Reserved  
 U1 is LM3886, with  
 isolated case

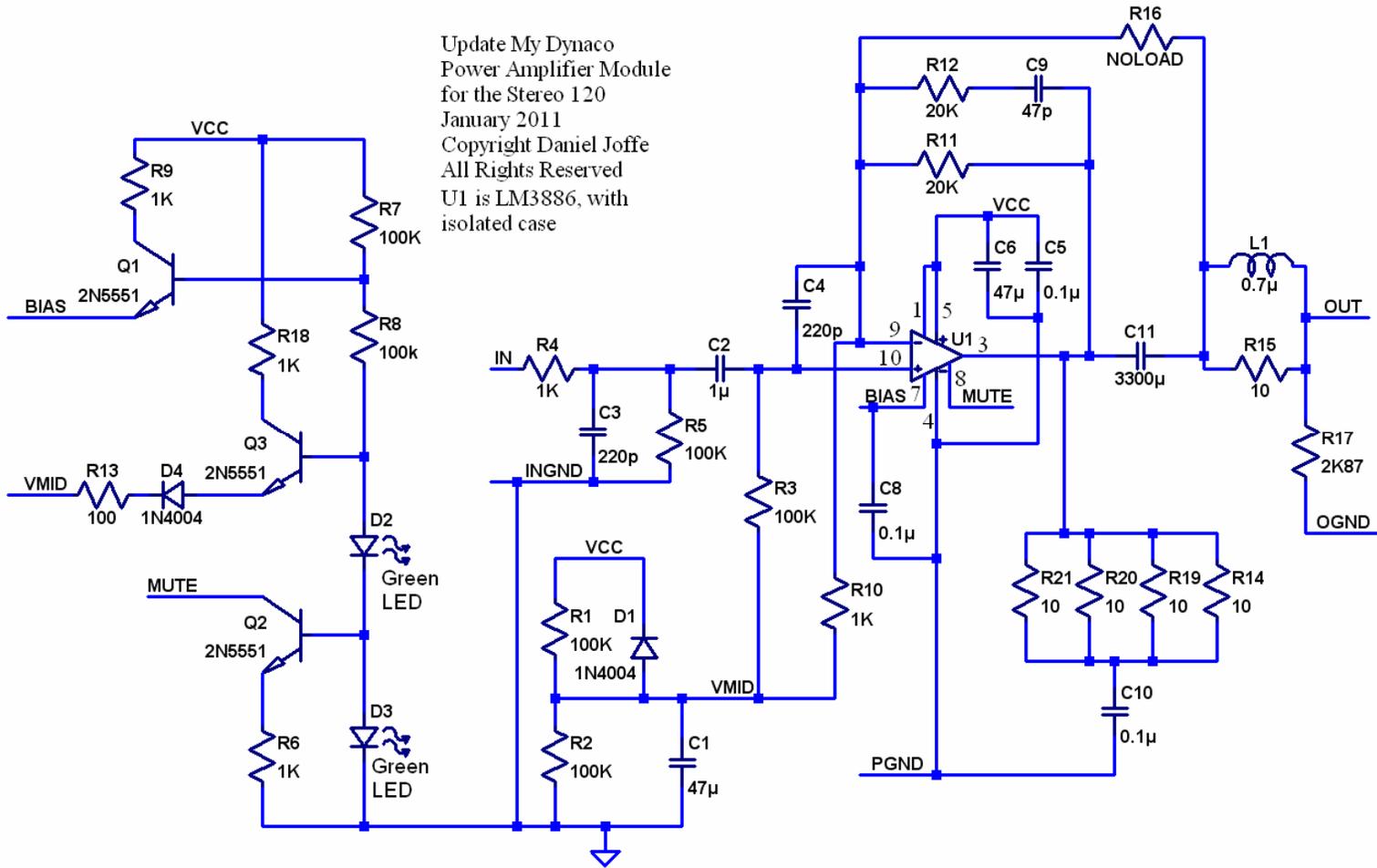


Figure 22-Schematic of amplifier module

## Resistor Color Code



Figure 23-demonstrating the resistor color code

Here's an extreme close-up of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  W metal film 20K (20,000) Ohm resistor, designated by the standard resistor color code.

The colors map to numbers:

Color	Number
Black	0
Brown	1
Red	2
Orange	3
Yellow	4
Green	5
Blue	6
Violet	7
Gray	8
White	9

The color band positions have the following meaning:

Position	Meaning
1	Left-most Digit (e.g. most significant)
2	Next digit to the right
3	Next digit to the right.
4	Number of zeros that follow the three digits, unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band 4 is gold =&gt; multiply by 0.1</li> <li>• Band 4 is silver=&gt; multiply by 0.01</li> </ul>
Yellow	Tolerance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown =&gt; 1%</li> <li>• Red =&gt; 2%</li> <li>• Gold=&gt; 5%</li> <li>• Silver=&gt;10%</li> <li>• No band=&gt;20%</li> </ul>