



Audio Note

**COBRA**

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

**OWNER'S INFORMATION**



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# ! IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION!



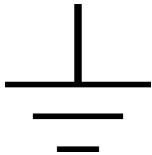
## **RISK OF SHOCK OR ELECTROCUTION! INTERNAL OPERATING VOLTAGES ARE LETHAL!**

Do not open the chassis, unless specifically instructed to do so in the user manual.

This unit contains fuses and other safety components in accordance with BS60065 requirements.

In the event of failure, replacement fuse or safety component must be of the same part type and value.

## **SUCH REPLACEMENT MUST ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY A QUALIFIED SERVICE TECHNICIAN.**



Do not attempt to replace any fuses without first disconnecting the unit from the mains electricity supply.

This product must be earthed – ensure that the mains supply cable earth / ground is correctly connected.



This product generates high levels of heat. Adequate ventilation must be provided. Do not restrict airflow through any ventilation slots or place the unit on any surface that may restrict airflow.

Valve equipment operates at extremely high temperatures;  
**KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN AND ANIMALS.**



Do not store or operate this unit in areas of high humidity or in close proximity to water / moisture.

Do not expose or immerse the unit in liquid of any kind.

## **OTHER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: -**

Never touch the power cord with wet hands.

Always remove the power cord by grasping the plug, not the cable.

Never expose the unit to excessive heat or magnetism.

Never let an inexperienced person repair or reassemble the unit.

Never put anything, especially metal objects, inside the unit.

Never place excessive weight on the unit.

# CE DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY



We declare under our sole responsibility that this product is in conformity with the following standards or standardized documents:

BS EN 60065 in accordance with the regulations 73/23/EEC, 89/336/EEC (from 1 January 1997)

CE 94

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## DISPOSAL

This product must not be disposed of as normal household waste. To prevent possible harm to the environment please separate the product from other waste to ensure that it can be recycled in an environmentally safe manner. Please contact your retailer or the appropriate local government office for collection facilities.

## POWER REQUIREMENTS

Power requirements for electrical equipment vary depending on your geographical location. Please ensure that your unit meets the power requirements in your area. The power requirement for your unit is marked on the serial number plate, located on the rear panel.

If you are in doubt, please contact your dealer before connecting the unit to the mains supply.

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing this Audio Note (UK) product. With the correct care it should give you many years of pleasure and enjoyment.

Please take the time to read all of the information in this manual before connecting your new component to an electrical supply or your system, to ensure both your safety and satisfaction.

Please note that due to our desire to continually improve products, specifications are subject to change without notice. Therefore it is important to refer to the manual that is supplied with your product for the most accurate information; manuals downloaded from our website or obtained from other sources may no longer fully apply to your product.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained within this document or your new component, please feel free to contact us: -

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## AUDIO NOTE COBRA

Congratulations on your purchase of the Audio Note (UK) COBRA Integrated Amplifier.

It is a Push Pull, Pure Class A valve design, offering an outstanding level of performance and value.

It has been specifically engineered for sonic performance rather than technical specification, and fulfills all Audio Note (UK) Level 1 criteria: -

Pure Class A Push-Pull Pentode operation

Materials and component quality

An input stage consisting of 2 x 6AU6 and 2 x 5670 feeds the push-pull configured EL34 output valves, two of which are used per channel.

The C-core output transformers are custom designed and manufactured by Audio Note (UK) and are of extremely high quality, offering outstanding, class leading performance.

The power supply is a multi element design with choke smoothing, ensuring precise operation of each circuit stage, whilst a separate DC supply feeds the valve filaments.

## UNPACKING AND INSTALLATION

Please take care when unpacking your COBRA Integrated Amplifier. Choose a clean, clear location to unpack your unit. Be aware that the amplifier is very heavy; before attempting to unpack or lift the unit, check the weight and if necessary use more than one person, so that it can be moved safely and easily.

We recommend that you retain and carefully store all of the original packing materials in case transportation / shipping is required at a later date.

Select a suitable location for the unit. This should be a dry, dust free and level area, preferably shielded from direct sunlight and free from vibration. Also ensure that the location is stable and capable of carrying the weight of the unit.

A suitable mains power outlet must be close to the location; power cords must not be pulled or stretched tightly in an attempt to reach a wall socket. If the power cord will not easily reach the socket, choose a closer location!

Please ensure that adequate ventilation for the unit is provided, and that airflow through any ventilation slots in the unit is not restricted. We recommend a distance of at least 30cm free space is maintained above the unit. Please also remember that valve equipment operates at extremely high temperatures, so a position that is inaccessible to any children or animals is essential.

## VALVE INSTALLATION

The amplifier is shipped without the valves installed. It is necessary to install all valves before the amplifier can be connected to the mains supply and operated.

It is essential that the valves are installed correctly or ***serious damage that is not covered by the warranty will result. We recommend that your dealer perform this procedure for you if you are in any way unsure.***

FIRSTLY, ENSURE THAT THE AMPLIFIER IS **NOT CONNECTED TO A MAINS ELECTRICAL SUPPLY**, AND THAT THE POWER CORD IS **NOT CONNECTED TO THE AMPLIFIER**.

Carefully unwrap all valves.

For reference, the supplied valves are as follows: -

Socket 1 – EL34  
Socket 2 – EL34  
Socket 3 – EL34  
Socket 4 – EL34  
Socket 5 – 5670  
Socket 6 – 5670  
Socket 7 – 6AU6  
Socket 8 – 6AU6

**Once again, please understand that it is absolutely vital these valves are fitted correctly.**

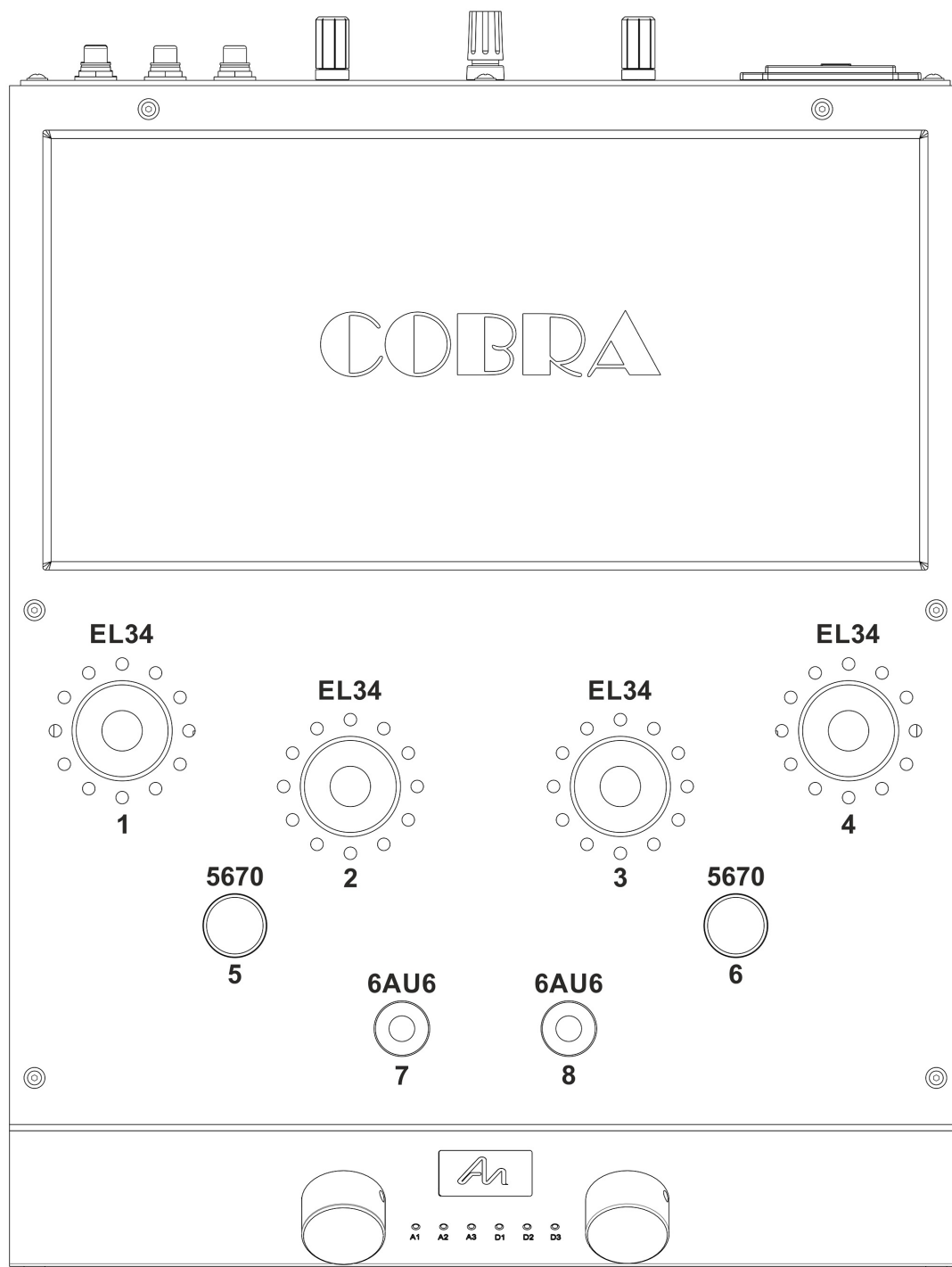
Look at the drawing of the COBRA on the next page and familiarize yourself with the positions of the various valves. First install the **EL34** valves, which should be inserted into sockets '1', '2', '3' and '4'. Locate the rib on the central pin of the valve base and align with the valve socket (it can only be inserted one way due to this locating rib) and with gentle but firm pressure insert the valve.

Next, insert the four small signal valves into the front four sockets.

Looking from the front of the amplifier, insert the shorter **5670** valves into the outer sockets '5' and '6', and the taller **6AU6** valves into the inner sockets '7' and '8'. The valves can only be inserted one way.

**Check once again that all valves are correctly installed.**

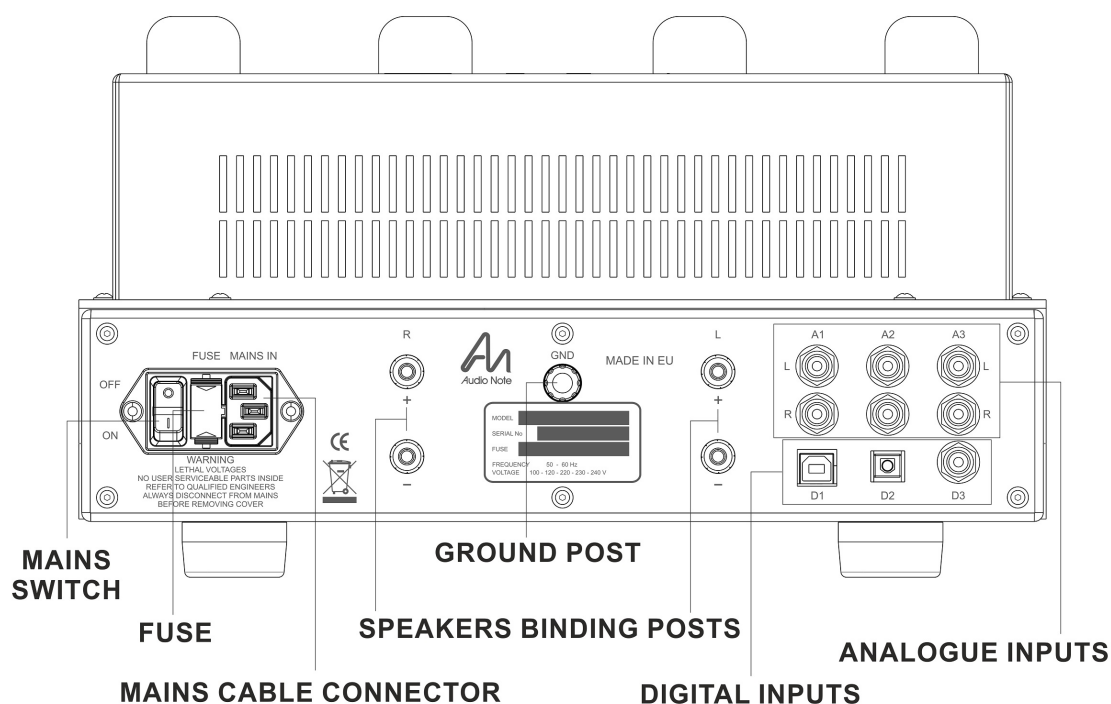
## VALVE INSTALLATION Continued...



VALVE 1, 2, 3, 4 - EL34  
VALVE 5, 6 - 5670  
VALVE 7, 8 - 6AU6



# CONNECTION



**Line inputs** Three line level inputs are available, labeled 'A1', 'A2' and 'A3', located on the right hand side of the rear panel.

**Digital inputs** The COBRA is equipped with 3 digital inputs:

- 'D1' – USB B-type, for connection to a source with a USB output
- 'D2' – TOSLINK Optical digital
- 'D3' – Coaxial digital

**Ground Post** A ground post is provided for connection to those source components that also use a separate ground terminal.

**Speakers** Each channel is equipped with 2 colour coded binding posts for connection to your speakers.  
 Looking from the front of the amplifier, the 2 binding posts to the left are for the left channel and the 2 binding posts to the right are for the right channel.  
 Connect the amplifier's black speaker output binding post marked as " – " to the black / negative terminal (also marked " – ") on the speaker.

Connect the amplifier's red speaker output binding post marked " + " to the red / positive terminal (also marked " + ") on the 'speaker.

**Mains in** The COBRA is equipped with an IEC 320 mains inlet socket. Use the supplied mains cable to connect the unit to the local mains supply. The mains fuse is located in the fuse holder positioned to the right of the mains inlet socket on the rear panel.

**Fuse** The mains fuse and a spare are located in the compartment next to the mains switch on the rear panel.

## OPERATION

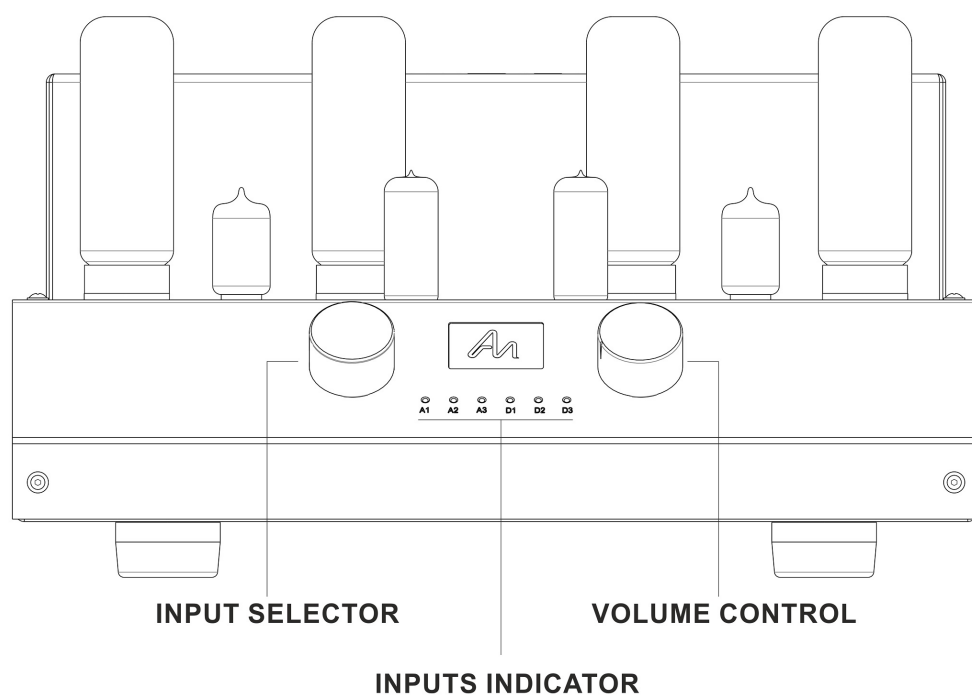
*Special Note – Make sure that all connections are tight and clean. For best results use good quality audio interconnects. For best results and performance, we recommend our own Audio Note (UK) range of interconnects and loudspeaker cables. For further information, please consult your nearest Audio Note (UK) dealer, or alternatively please feel free to contact us directly.*

Once all connections are completed and checked, ensure that the volume control is at the minimum setting (rotated all the way to the left).

**Turn on any source components (CD player, DAC, Phono stage etc.) BEFORE turning on the amplifier; the amplifier should be the LAST item to be turned on when you are ready to listen to your system, and the FIRST item to be turned off when the listening session is over.**

Turn on the amplifier by using the rocker switch located on the top / right of the rear panel, next to the mains inlet socket.

One of the red front panel lights should now be lit. The amplifier requires approximately two minutes to initialize before it is ready for operation.



**Input Selector** Turn the input selector knob until the light of the source you wish to listen to lights up.

**Volume Control** This control adjusts the listening level, or loudness. Set as desired!

Inputs, Volume and Mute can be also controlled with the supplied remote control handset.

***When Mute is selected, input light flashes.***

## OPERATION continued...

*Note: when no source component is connected to the digital inputs, it is common and perfectly normal to hear some background noise if these un-connected digital inputs are selected.*

*Audio Note (UK) does not use any kind of muting circuit on these inputs as this kind of solution results in reduced sound quality.*

### **Bedding in**

The new amplifier requires roughly 200 hours of initial use (called "bedding in") before the circuitry becomes stable and optimum performance is realized.

As the amplifier "beds in" the sound will become increasingly more smooth, detailed and open.

Once the amplifier has "bedded in" a warm up time of approximately 30 to 45 minutes is required each time the amplifier is switched on before optimum sonic performance is reached.

### **Cleaning**

No special maintenance is required for the amplifier. Use a soft, clean lint free cloth to remove any surface marks from the casework. For finger marks / grease, use a soft, clean lint free cloth, lightly moistened with a solution of warm water and mild detergent. Do not use any alcohol or solvent based cleaning products, as they may damage the finish of the amplifier.

**ENSURE THAT THE AMPLIFIER IS SWITCHED OFF AND DISCONNECTED FROM THE MAINS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BEFORE UNDERTAKING ANY CLEANING.**

### **Valve Life**

The valves supplied with your amplifier should provide approximately 6000 hours of operation. They are specially selected by us, and should only be replaced with matched pairs. Please consult your Audio Note (UK) dealer should your valves need replacing.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

<b>INPUT IMPEDANCE</b>	100K ohm, line level
<b>INPUT SENSITIVITY</b>	300mV for full output
<b>MAXIMUM OUTPUT</b>	27 watts RMS per channel into 8 Ohm loads
<b>CHANNEL BALANCE</b>	+/- 0.3dB
<b>VALVE COMPLEMENT</b>	4 x EL34 2 x 5670 2 x 6AU6
<b>EXTERNAL FUSE RATING</b>	<b>110 / 120V supply:</b> 1 x 3.15A Timed / anti-surge
<b>INTERNAL PROTECTION FUSE</b>	<b>220 / 240V supply:</b> 1 x 1.6A Timed / anti-surge  1.6A Timed / anti-surge (all mains voltages)
<b>UNIT WEIGHT</b>	13.6 KG
<b>SHIPPING WEIGHT (ORIGINAL PACKAGING)</b>	15 KG
<b>UNIT DIMENSIONS</b>	180mm (h) x 340mm (w) x 450mm (d)
<b>SHIPPING DIMENSIONS (ORIGINAL PACKAGING)</b>	260mm (h) x 420mm (w) x 540mm (d)
<b>SUPPORTED SAMPLING FREQUENCIES (DIGITAL INPUTS)</b>	USB: up to 16-bit/48kHz Optical TOSLINK: up to 24-bit/96kHz COAX: up to 24-bit/176kHz
<b>MAX. POWER CONSUMPTION</b>	175 Watts
<b>NOTE</b>	Due to Audio Note (UK)'s ongoing research and development program, specifications are subject to change without notice.

## WARRANTY INFORMATION

Audio Note (UK) warrants this product to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for two years from the original date of purchase from an appointed Audio Note (UK) dealer, and agrees to covers the cost of parts and associated labour required to correct such defects, subject to terms & conditions.

This Warranty is offered to the first purchaser only.

Any valves supplied with the unit are warranted for three months from the original date of purchase.

If the product fails in normal domestic use and during the Warranty period due to the above described faults or defects, Audio Note (UK) will, at its discretion, repair or replace the item free of charge within a reasonable time once it has been returned to Audio Note (UK) or an appointed Audio Note (UK) dealer or service engineer.

Audio Note (UK) is not liable for any shipping charges incurred whilst transporting the product to or from Audio Note (UK) or an appointed Audio Note (UK) dealer or service engineer, should the item require service or repair during or after the Warranty period.

If the product must be shipped, please use the original packaging materials and include a copy of the original sales receipt along with a note explaining, in as much detail as possible, the problems you are experiencing with the unit.

**Only use a reputable Courier Service or Shipping Agent, and ensure that your product is insured during transit.**

**Any servicing, repairs or modifications not authorized by Audio Note (UK), or carried out by persons other than appointed Audio Note (UK) service engineers will invalidate any warranty.**

This Warranty does NOT cover: -

Damage sustained whilst in the possession of a shipping agent, retailer or consumer and not caused as a direct result of defects in materials or workmanship.

Damage caused by normal wear and tear.

Damage or defects caused by abnormal or unreasonable use.

Damage caused by accident, acts of nature, misuse or neglect.

Damage caused by a failure to follow the operating and installation instructions supplied with the product.

Damage caused by improper or careless cleaning.

Audio Note (UK) reserves the right to refuse warranty for any component of which the serial number has been removed, defaced or tampered with.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If in the future your Audio Note (UK) product requires servicing, or if you require technical support or have any questions regarding this or any of our other products, please contact your local Audio Note (UK) dealer.

Alternatively, please feel free to contact us directly: -


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 Audio Note (UK) Ltd

