

Golden Dragon

Tube Rings by Duende Criatura

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You just slide the ring over the top of the tube and position it level with the top-plate of the internal metalwork.

Once in place they stay put, and recent substitution of brand new samples for ones that have been in use for a good six months produced no identifiable difference in effect, which bodes well for longevity. Indeed, the only real limitation on their use is that the valves involved must have parallel sides.

In use, the benefits of the Tube Rings are sonically on par with the Pearls (although without any cooling benefits). You get crisper and greater dynamic range, a blacker background, better focus, deeper and more powerful bass. In fact, all the things you'd expect from a good valve damper. But it's the magnitude of the differences that really impresses. You'll not be straining to hear them and they are both musically significant and hi-fi relevant. The sheer increase in clarity and separation makes it far easier to hear

exactly what is going on within the music, while the increased dynamic range, control and discrimination make performances much more expressive, involving and realistic. Even CB, a notorious sceptic when it comes to such devices, was left open-mouthed with surprise when I demonstrated their effect on the audiopax amps. Not bad for such a simple, cheap and trouble free tweak I think you'll agree.

Anybody with a tube amp, especially an open chassis model should investigate these plain looking little rings immediately. The fact that you'll probably be getting them mail order means that you can try them safe in the knowledge that you can return them if unconvinced, but



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somehow, I think you'll be keeping them once you hear the effects. They're now considered essential as far as I'm concerned, and bring new meaning to the term 'simply the best'

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Review by Roy Gregory.



Golden Dragon Tube Rings by Duende Criatura are available from:
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