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If you're a movie or music-video buff and want to hear the latest releases at their best, the B-283 can take a thin, wiry soundtrack and pump it up until Charles Atlas would be proud. Watching and listening to "Once," the movie that introduced me and countless others to the talents of Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, was made twice better through the B-283. One of my favorite moments in the film is when Hansard and Irglova drop in at a casual party, where the only requirements are that you either sing or play an instrument. Interference's performance of "Gold" highlights the scene, and has a you-are-there feel with a terrific sense of life through the B-283.

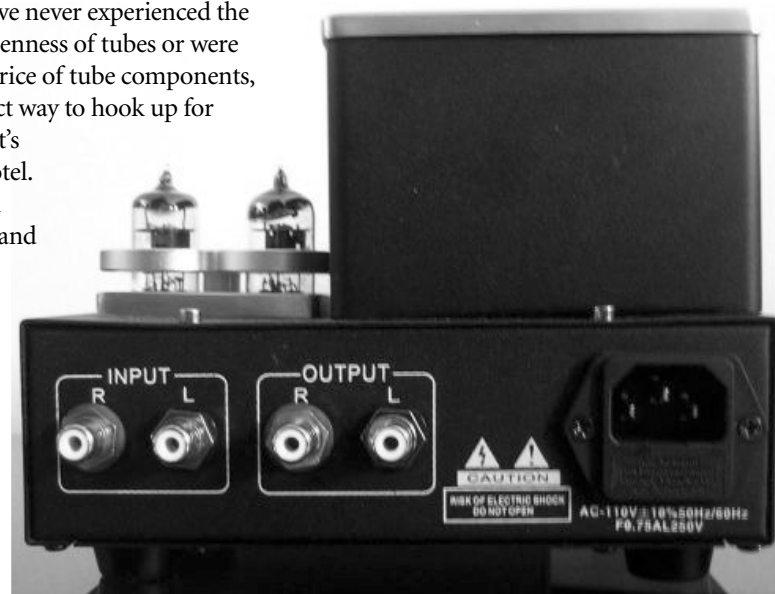
The best praise I can offer is more for the ordinary moments, when sound matters the least, and that's when the tubes keep it interesting. The processor doesn't take sound over the top like over-compressed recordings, it simply opens the shutters on what was there to begin with — oftentimes more than you'd think — and lets it breathe naturally.

Conclusions

I often cringe when I read about perceived upgrades or certain "tweaks" in the audiophile world — everything from putting CDs in the freezer (you heard me right) to dropping 10 grand on a pair of interconnects. I'll leave it to others to harvest the wheat from that chaff, but I can give my firm recommendation for the B-283. It does so much right that it's hard to find anything negative to say

about it. If you've never experienced the warmth and openness of tubes or were put off by the price of tube components, here's the perfect way to hook up for less than a night's stay at a nice hotel.

The B-283 is an incredibly easy and effective system upgrade for a pittance compared to the cost of replacing a system. Give it a listen and you'll likely be tubed for life. **GM**



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