

USER MANUAL  
ENGLISH



# iTube MkII Valve Amplifier

This 25 watt class-leading award-winner now features a USB input.



FATMAN BY TL AUDIO



# iTube MkII Valve Amplifier

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## FATMAN BY TL AUDIO

From us, to you...

We'd like to congratulate you on your excellent taste in choosing the Fatman iTube MkII by TL Audio. We've put many, many years of audio engineering experience and a whole lot of love into bringing you a marvel of modern engineering that will enhance your listening experience, and in its own small way, your life.

To make sure you get the best performance from your system please read this owner's manual thoroughly and use your iTube MkII only in accordance with its instructions. Treat it well, and it should reward you with many years of loyal service and excellent sound quality.

## In the box

### Here's what you'll find inside

- iTube MkII Vacuum Tube Amplifier
- iTube MkII iPod ValveDock
- High quality, directional Speaker Cables
- Audio Cable - Connects the iTube MkII amplifier to the iPod ValveDock
- Aux Audio Cable - connects another source like a phone, MP3 player, CD player or computer.
- Video Cable - connects your iTube MkII to your television
- Remote Control - Use the Fatman Remote Control to play, pause, forward, rewind, shuffle and more



# iTube MkII Valve Amplifier

## Safety Instructions

**They're Important, So Please Read Carefully!**

### **Please DO...**

- Keep these instructions in a safe place for future reference - you may need 'em.
- The iTube MkII works best on a clean, dry and flat surface. Try it, you'll see.
- The iTube MkII needs room to breathe, so make sure its new home has adequate ventilation. Don't put it on beds, sofas, rugs, enclosed bookcases / cabinets or anywhere else where its ventilation may be obstructed and it can overheat.
- Make sure that your iTube MkII is connected to the correct power supply as indicated on the unit.
- Unplug your iTube MkII when it's not in use for a long period (we're talking days, not hours).
- Always make sure power cables are placed safely and not obstructing a walkway.
- If you move your iTube MkII from a cool to a warm place, condensation may form on the surface of the vacuum tube. It's nothing to worry about, but allow 1 hour before you switch it on again. This will avoid leakage or a blow-out of the vacuum tube due to too much sudden heat.
- You really should get your iTube MkII serviced by an authorised service engineer if:
  1. The power supply or cord is damaged
  2. It drops or is struck by a falling object
  3. It's exposed to rain or moisture
  4. Liquid is spilt on it
  5. It's not operating normally or shows a sudden change in performance

### **Please DON'T...**

- Don't put your iTube MkII anywhere near water – it hates it. So avoid placing it near bathtubs, sinks, washing machines, swimming pools, saunas, jacuzzis, kettles, precariously balanced pints of beer etc.
- Expose it to direct sunlight or to extremes of temperature or humidity.
- Don't leave it near direct heat sources such as radiators, stoves, gas fires, naked flames or candles.
- Never drop the unit. It's delicate, so don't apply excessive force to the controls or place heavy objects on top of it either.
- Don't let too much dust gather on your iTube – give it a regular wipe with a soft dry cloth. If necessary, use a slightly damp cloth but DO NOT use solvents.
- The iTube MkII has valves, and they can get hot. Don't touch the tubes and keep away from babies and children.
- Don't try to remove the cover or the back - there are no user-serviceable parts, and you don't want to risk an electric shock.

**NOTE:** Any unauthorised changes or modifications to this equipment render the manufacturer's warranty null and void.



## Amplifier Connections

- Before connecting anything to or from your iTube MkII, switch OFF the power to the iTube MkII and to the components you want to connect.
- Make sure that all connections between the iTube and other components are made correctly, so L(left) goes to L, R(Right) to R, + to + and - to -. Don't forget to refer to the owner's manual of each component that you want to connect.
- Always turn OFF the power switches when you're connecting or disconnecting from the mains.
- Disconnect the power supply from the mains if you're not planning to use your iTube MkII for a while eg holidays.

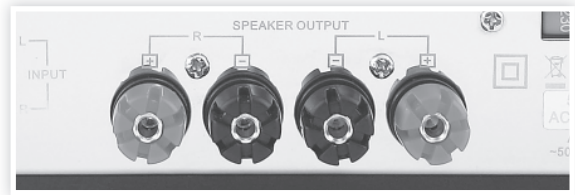


- Any speakers you connect should have an impedance of 4-8 ohms – if it's not written on the back of the speaker, check with the manufacturer.

# iTube MkII Valve Amplifier

## Speaker Connections

- Connect to your speakers using high quality, bare (stripped) speaker wire. If your speaker wires are not connected properly you may hear no sound at all, or if the wires are mixed up, it will sound weird with a disturbing loss of bass.
- When using bare speaker wires, fit at least 1.6mm of insulation inside the speaker terminals so that there's no bare wire showing.
- Make sure the wire holders are firmly screwed in to stop the wires from becoming loose. If wires touch, the speakers or the unit could be damaged. That's bad.



## Connecting the ValveDock

### Video Output

Connect the video cable (yellow) from the video output connector (yellow) of the iTube to the video input (you guessed it, probably yellow) of your TV.

### Audio Output

Connect the audio cable from the twin audio outputs of your CD player or other source to the audio inputs of the iTube.

### S-Video Output

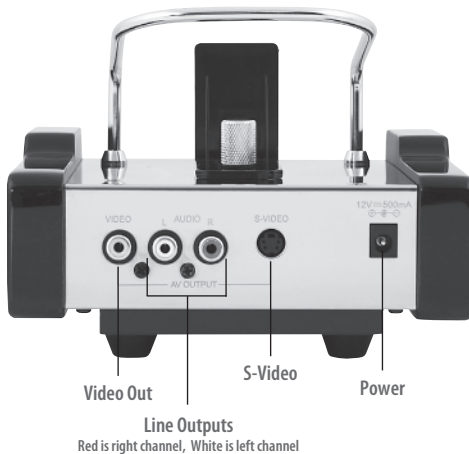
Use an S-Video cable (not included, sorry) to connect the S-Video output of your iTube to the S-Video input of your TV.

### Power input

Connect the supplied power cable between your iTube and the mains supply.

### Remote power

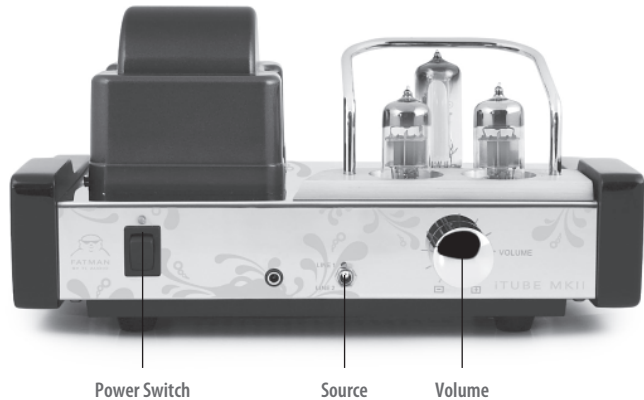
**Use the on switch on the remote control to turn on your iTube MkII.**



# iTube MkII Valve Amplifier

## The Front

- **Power switch**  
Press to on for power - the indicator will light up while the power is on. Later on, try pressing it off to give it a rest.
- **Source**  
For switching between different sound sources – iPod dock, CD player, pre-amp, external DAC, whatever.
- **Volume control**  
Full control - you can turn it up... or you can turn it down.

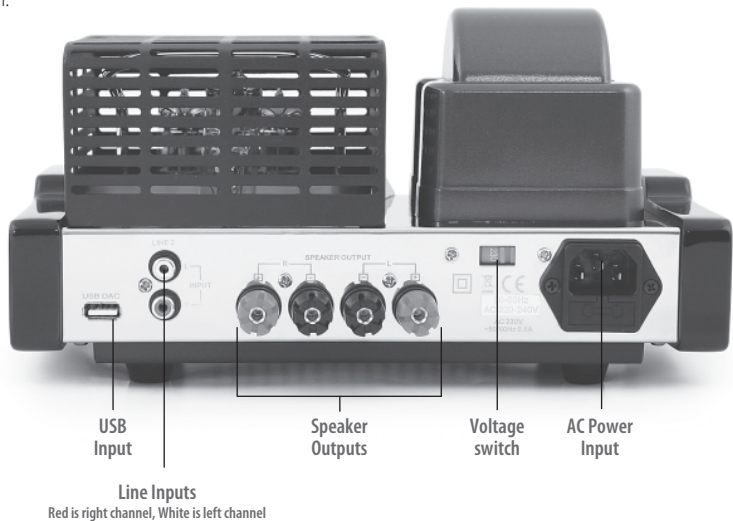


**Note:** Before you switch on, set the volume control to the lowest setting to avoid damage to the speakers. Just in case you don't, the speaker-protection circuit will mute the volume for a few seconds after the power is switched on.

## The Back

### 5 MINUTE RULE!

Your iTube MkII should only be re-started 5 minutes after switching off to avoid damaging the tubes.



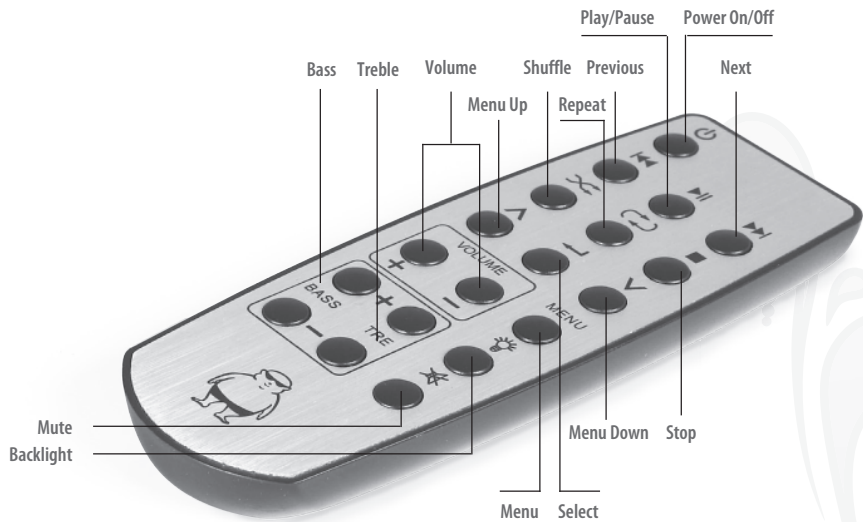


## The Remote Control

### • iPod control

Some iPod functions can be controlled using the iTube MkII's remote.

Play/pause song	Press play/pause
Turn off iPod	Press and hold 'Play'
Skip to next song	Press 'Next/fast forward'
Start a song again	Press 'Previous/rewind' once
Play previous song	Press 'Previous/rewind' twice
Fast forward song	Press and hold 'Next/fast forward'
Rewind a song	Press and hold 'Previous/rewind'



# iTube MkII Valve Amplifier

## Dr Feelgood

Your iTube MkII should give you years of trouble-free audio fitness, but if it isn't performing as it should, it could be due to one of these simple problems. If you're still having trouble, please contact your authorised dealer or service centre.



SYMPTOM	DIAGNOSIS	CURE
<b>Won't turn on when the POWER switch is pressed</b>	Power adaptor isn't connected properly Mains supply is off	Make sure the power cable is firmly plugged in and mains is switched on
<b>No sound</b>	The volume control is turned all the way to the left The connection wires are not connected securely to the INPUT terminals. Speakers are not connected properly	Turn the control to the right to crank up the volume Make sure the cords are fully inserted at both ends Check that the speaker cables are connected correctly (pg4)
<b>No sound from left or right speaker</b>	One or both speakers are not properly connected iTube Dock input isn't properly connected	Check both speaker cables and ensure they're connected securely Check the connections between your source and amplifier are correctly and firmly connected
<b>The acoustic image is unstable (sounds unnatural or weirdly bass light)</b>	The positive and negative polarities of the unit and speakers aren't matched	Remove the speaker cables and re-connect them correctly (pg4)
<b>iPod volume doesn't effect audio volume</b>	iPod is already at maximum output	Use your iTube MkII's amplifier volume control when your iPod is docked



SYMPTOM	DIAGNOSIS	CURE
<b>Crackling sound from speakers</b>	Bad connection A problem with your audio source	Check docking station connection (or the 3.5mm cable connection if using). Make sure it's using 'line out' audio out' or 'headphone out' from your source, NOT 'speaker out' Test the 3.5mm cable with another audio source eg CD player, MP3 player
<b>Sound is distorted</b>	Volume level on iTube is too high Sound source is distorted	Turn it down a bit (well, if it makes it sound better...) WAV and MIDI files are often poor quality and distortion sounds worse through a quality system – try a different audio source eg CD
<b>Radio interference</b>	You may be too close to a radio tower	Try moving the speakers to different positions
<b>Remote control doesn't work</b>	Low battery Remote's not in range or pointing the wrong way	Replace battery Point the remote at the dock from no more than 20ft distance
<b>TV cannot display</b>	Bad connection iPod video set up is incorrect	Check dock connection. Check iPod video set up



# iTube MkII Valve Amplifier

## Specification

Max output power: 25Wx2  
Frequency response: 20Hz-20KHz ( $\pm 1.5$ dB)  
Distortion:  $\leq 0.5\%$   
Signal to noise ratio:  $\geq 86$ dB  
Input sensitivity: 200mV  
Input impedance: 100K $\Omega$   
Output impedance: 4 $\Omega$  / 8 $\Omega$   
iTube MkII Size (WxHxD): 260mm x 145mm x 130mm  
ValveDock (WxHxD): 155mm x 130mm x 123mm  
Weight: 4.3kg  
Tubes: 6N1 x 2, 6E2 x 1  
Type of amp: Hybrid  
Inputs: RCA pair x 1, USB x 1

## Service

Please contact your local authorised dealer or reseller.



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info@fat-man.co.uk www.fat-man.co.uk

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Compatible with iPhone (2G, 3G, 3GS), iPod Nano (3rd, 4th, 5th Gen), iPod Touch, iPod Classic

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