

RAMBLING - MORE STEREO BLABBER

STEREO OVERKILL

Further to my write-up on the same topic some 3 years ago, the system has been evolving. Some components have stopped working; others have proven to be just some useless bell & whistle.

The main component, a large 65 lb Kenwood amplifier, gave up it's ghost last year. Though I got it from a thrift shop 12 years ago in LA for the ridiculously low price of \$35, I knew that it would be worth repairing, especially after more research on the web showed that it is a collector's item with only less than a thousand manufactured in Japan in the early 70s, and that a reconditioned model now sells for over a thousand bucks. The matching pre-amp is just as rare, though I have an equally respectable McIntosh, also vintage 70s.

Now for stereophiles, that's still small change compared to the new high end models, mainly US brands that go much higher, especially for the retro designs where vacuum tubes again are used, instead of all these solid state transistors. Such stuff is way past my league, and I prefer this vintage 70s solid state technology, rather than the commercialized ICs (integrated circuits) and digital components with 5 sound channels and their so artificially shrill sound and exaggerated bass.

It took some time to find a techie in Dumaguete who could repair it. Turns out it had a few blown resistors and small capacitors and bad speaker relay contacts. Nothing serious. The main power transistors were all intact. Cost an equivalent of \$50 to repair, still worth it, even if I found it high for local standards. The Marantz had a leaky capacitor and the repair cost only the equivalent of \$8 in Tanjay.

Last week, I put them all together in another configuration, interconnecting 3 pre-amps, 2 main amps, turntable, CD, computer sound cards, equalizer, master switcher, 3 sets of speakers, etc.

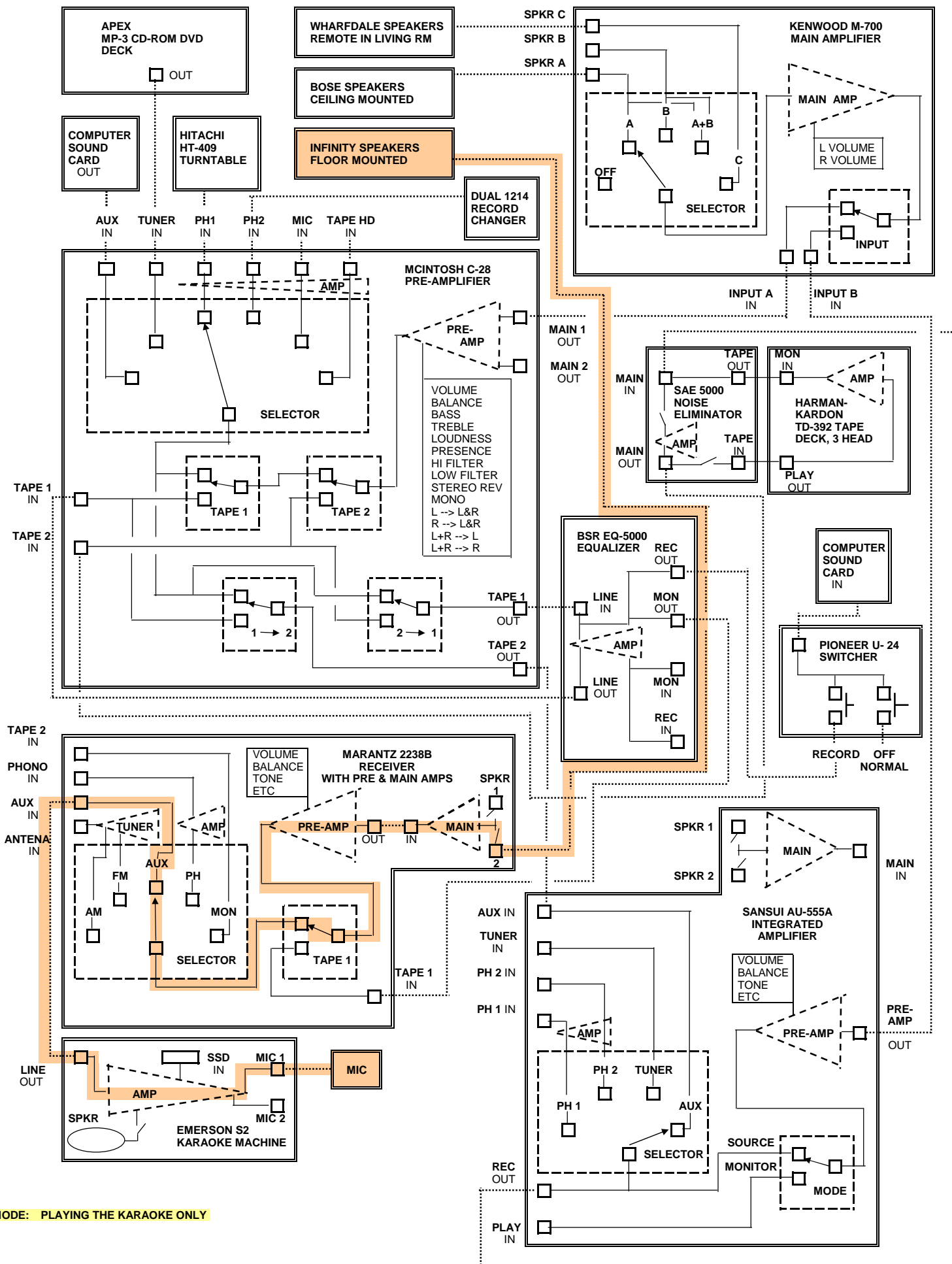
Naturally, it needed a "codigo" or connection diagram to help operate. Happily, that can be done on the computer, which is another activity I don't mind dabbling in.

Below are the results, 7 similar diagrams color coded for various modes, now printed and pasted on the wall.

THE BACK ROOM STEREO SYSTEM

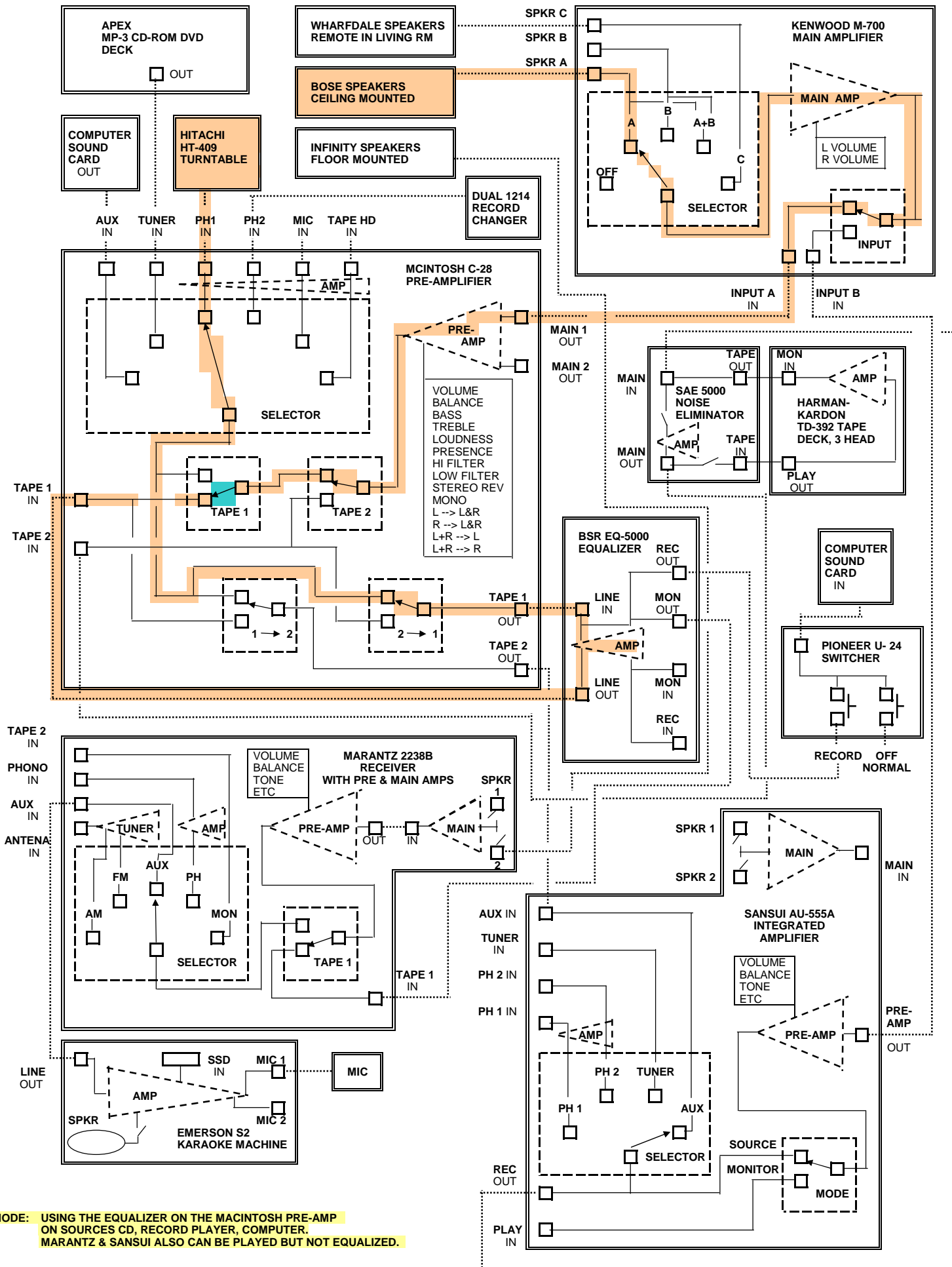


BLOCK DIAGRAM OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT



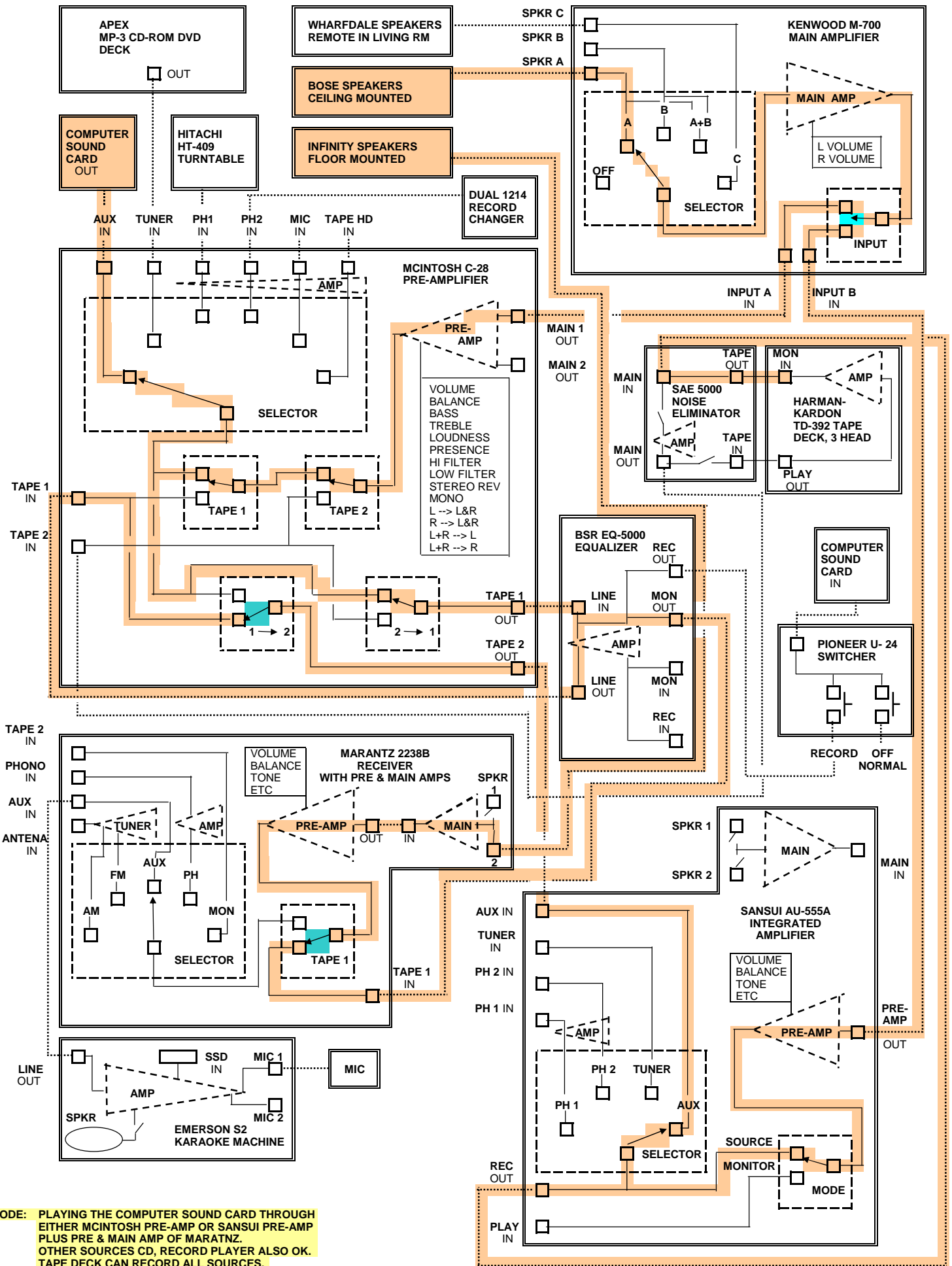
MODE: PLAYING THE KARAOKE ONLY

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT



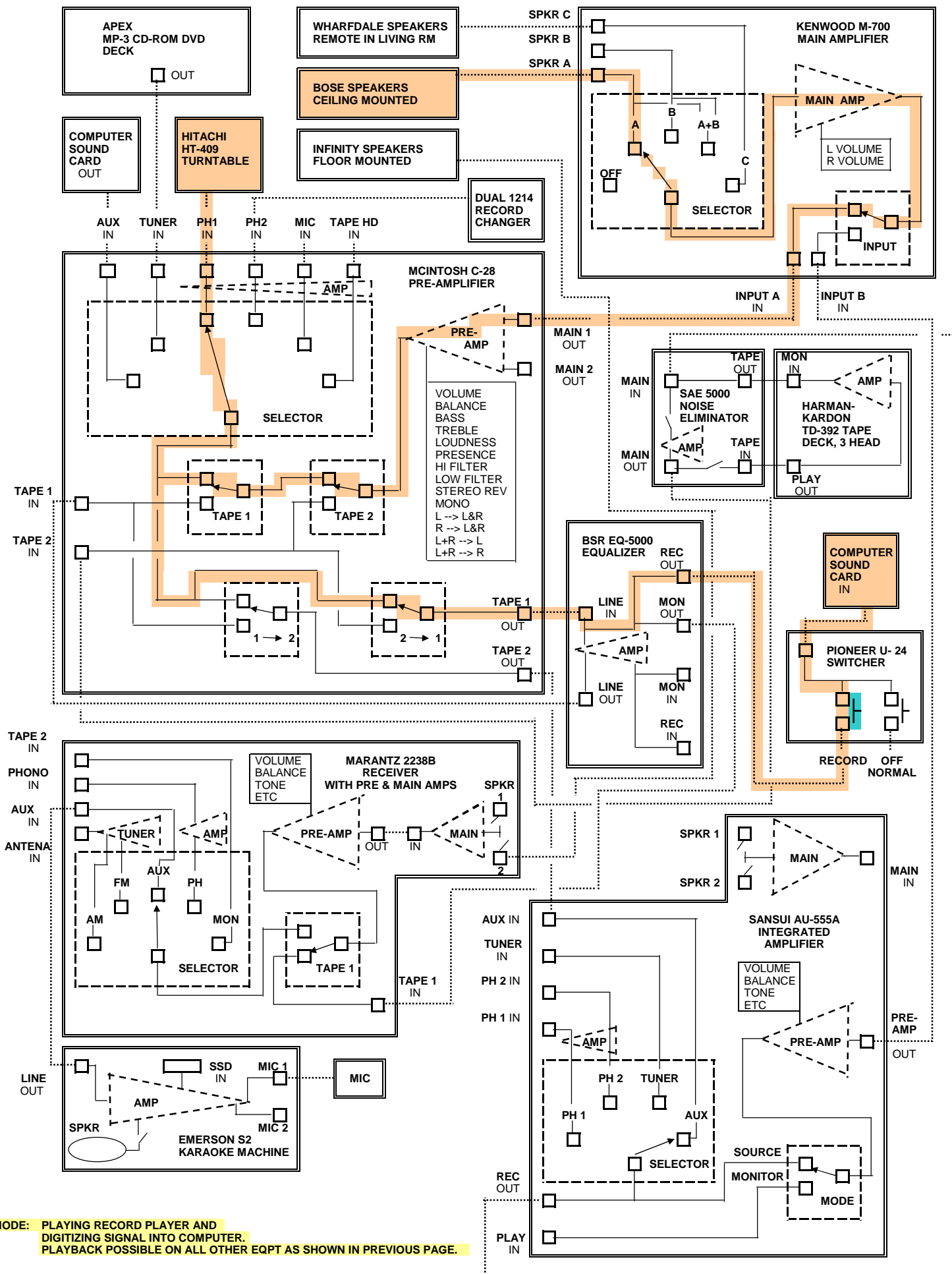
MODE: USING THE EQUALIZER ON THE MACINTOSH PRE-AMP ON SOURCES CD, RECORD PLAYER, COMPUTER. MARANTZ & SANSUI ALSO CAN BE PLAYED BUT NOT EQUALIZED.

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT



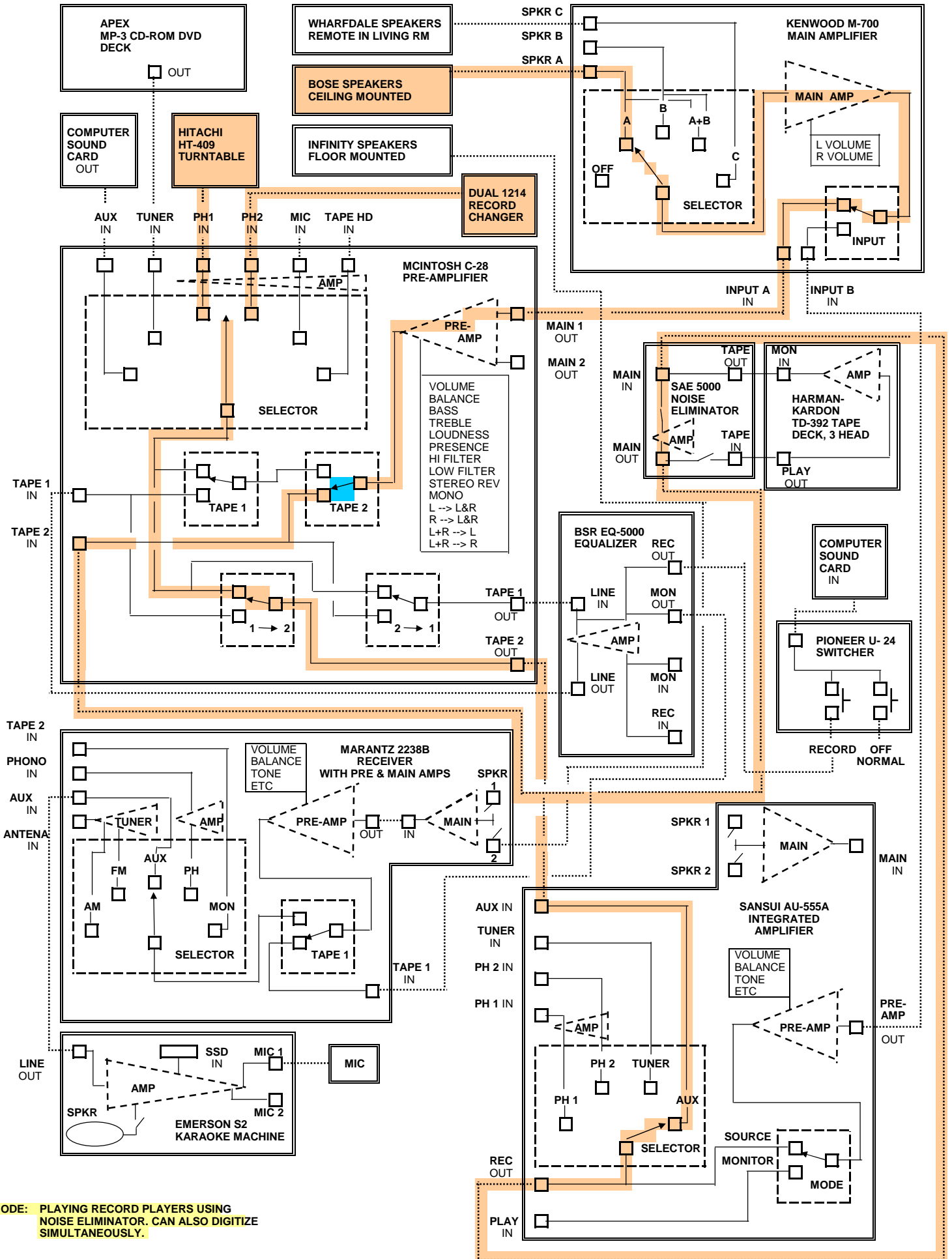
MODE: PLAYING THE COMPUTER SOUND CARD THROUGH EITHER MCINTOSH PRE-AMP OR SANSUI PRE-AMP PLUS PRE & MAIN AMP OF MARANTZ. OTHER SOURCES CD, RECORD PLAYER ALSO OK. TAPE DECK CAN RECORD ALL SOURCES.

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT



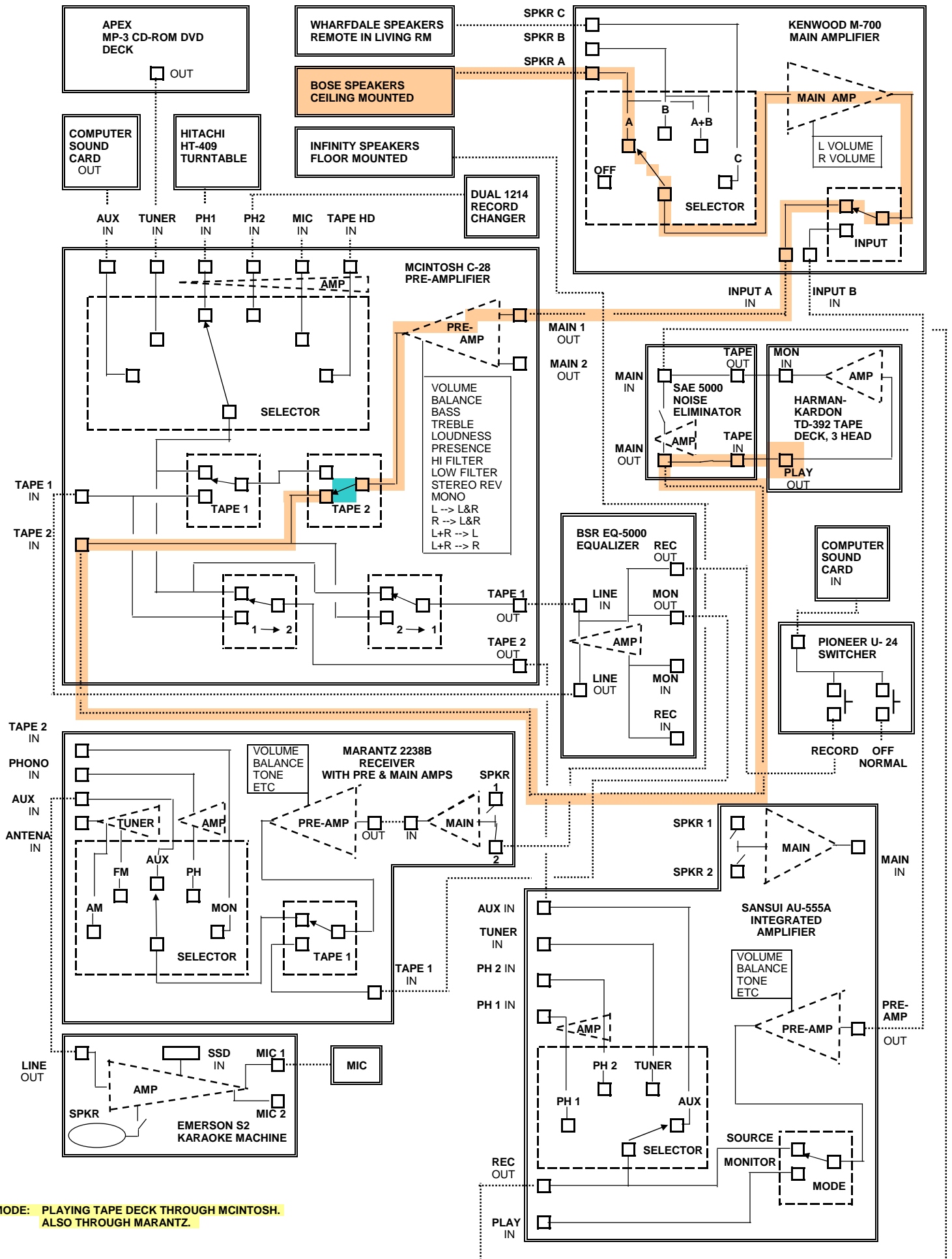
MODE: PLAYING RECORD PLAYER AND DIGITIZING SIGNAL INTO COMPUTER. PLAYBACK POSSIBLE ON ALL OTHER EQPT AS SHOWN IN PREVIOUS PAGE.

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT



MODE: PLAYING RECORD PLAYERS USING NOISE ELIMINATOR. CAN ALSO DIGITIZE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT



MODE: PLAYING TAPE DECK THROUGH MCINTOSH. ALSO THROUGH MARANTZ.

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT

