
Subject: Menno Van Der Veen/OPT's and sound quality
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 07 Oct 2004 19:15:27 GMT
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Menno wrote an article on testing OPT's in the Issue 5 1997 Glass Audio. In the article he goes over some methodologies for determining the specs of OPT's and how they affect sound. Some interesting conclusions are demonstrated at the end of the article. One of the points he makes is this: Through extensive testing three postulates are promoted: Human hearing reacts to pleasurable sounds by producing alpha brain wave activity measured at the 8hz level determined by EEG measurements. Testing has shown an increase in these EEG readings in subjects exposed to Tube amps with damping factors around 4, no negative feedback and rolled off high end starting at 16k. In amplifiers that measured significant response energy at the 22k level, the positive alpha waves decreased significantly and the sound registered as unpleasant. Using recordings made with a double sampling speed DAT, recorded at 48k on speakers with tweeters able to reproduce frequencies in excess of 28k the pleasurable alpha waves and positive response returned to previously high levels. It is a long article but very interesting. J.R. In that same issue our own Metasonix has a nice article on modifying an 811 amp to make it sound better.

Subject: Re: Menno Van Der Veen/OPT's and sound quality
Posted by [Thermionic](#) on Sun, 10 Oct 2004 00:54:54 GMT
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WOW! I don't know what the damping factor and frequency response of my 2A3 amp with Plitron OPTs is, I just know it surely must "increase my positive alpha waves" just fine. Menno van der Veen definitely knows how to design an output transformer, to say the least! They were the first set of Plitrons I bought (PAT-3025), and since then I also got a pair for a PP EL34 amp, which are not yet installed. But, if they're ANYTHING like the SE OPTs.....my positive alpha wave production will go off the scale. Thermionic :)

Subject: Re: Menno Van Der Veen/OPT's and sound quality
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 10 Oct 2004 01:12:59 GMT
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Makes you want to go right on out and buy a new set of transformers. I get chills just reading that stuff! And at 8hz. too. Listen as long as your brain doesn't exhibit those delta waves, those are the serial killer ones. He's a bright guy so; who knows? And at the prices he gets for those transformers I better get alpha waves. J.R.

Subject: Re: Menno Van Der Veen/OPT's and sound quality
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 10 Oct 2004 12:29:47 GMT
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On an unrelated but similar subject, 8Hz is very near the frequency that Nicola Tesla proposed to resonate the Earth with his Magnifying Transmitter. This was later described as Schumann Resonance, in reference to Winfried Otto Schumann who measured earth resonances in the 1950's.

Subject: Re: Menno Van Der Veen/OPT's and sound quality
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 10 Oct 2004 13:42:42 GMT
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Well; there you go. The man may be onto something afterall. I mean a transformer is an electromagnet. I would like to observe something. Once you take a proven and good functioning circuit add reasonable quality passive components, adjust the circuit's parameters through close attention to scope measurements, the only thing controlling the quality of sound is the transformer. In the dozens of amps I have heard through the years of all types of circuitry, the only significant factor that has seperated them from each other has been the quality of the transformers. In the EAR SE 859, he uses very pricey heavy well regulated trans, Yoshino's hand picked. That is one of the better sounding amps built. So how do we determine which circuit to use since so much is riding on the quality of the iron, the circuit seems almost superfluous. J.R.
