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Subject: Hybrid amps

Posted by [musicluvr](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2019 15:55:03 GMT

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Do you know if hybrid amps last longer? Have they typically produced better sound when compared to other amps? It seems like buying a hybrid would be the way to go as you'd get the best of both worlds.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2019 18:01:17 GMT

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I'd say, no and no. Great designs can be had with or without the hybrid approach. Which I think is to make something with the traits of one format, say, tube impressed upon a solid state design. Reliability is part of any honest designer's forethought. With that foundation, the devil in the details can be expressed with creativity. Van Alstine is supposed to have fine hybrid amplifiers. Don't know if they can be said to be superior in sound and reliability to many other non-hybrid designs though. But I bet they have their followers that would swear by them.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [Strum Drum](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2019 22:24:34 GMT

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I think it's hard for hybrids to actually produce the best of both worlds - rich tube sound with the signal processing and the reliability of a digital amp. Hybrids tend to be cheaper and they aren't terrible or anything. I've used a model by VOX and another by Orange with my guitar. They were both fine, but nothing spectacular.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sun, 10 Feb 2019 22:24:49 GMT

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Hi, Hybrids can excel in some areas. Where there is the need for a lot of gain and low noise solid state devices do very well. However, how they sound may not be to everyone's liking. If you want a warmer sound, often caused by the presence of even harmonics then tubes will probably sound better to you. A hybrid with a high gain front end feeding tube output circuitry can be very nice. It depends on the design and execution. If all the gear has a cathode follower output (like many of the budget hybrids seem to do) then it is not likely to make any difference.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Wed, 12 Feb 2020 23:17:12 GMT

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The biggest problem with hybrid amps is the emotional conflict you would feel in deciding whether to post messages in Silicon Valley or in Thermionic Emissions. :lol:

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Wed, 12 Feb 2020 23:40:10 GMT

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I do understand McIntosh doesn't make the best amp for the money, but the name McIntosh is in the same league as Harley Davidson and Corvette - an American classic. I really like the looks of this one. No I'm not considering spending this kind of money. :lol:  
<https://www.mcintoshlabs.com/products/new-products/MA352>

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2020 11:48:04 GMT

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It has finally arrived. I said I wouldn't spend so much on any audio component, then I decided to reward myself. It sounds great, but I'm having a terrible case of cognitive dissonance deciding whether to post this in Silicon Valley or the Tubey forum. Tubey or not tubey, that is the question.

#### File Attachments

1) [DSC04591.JPG](#), downloaded 422 times

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2020 13:58:12 GMT

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Ooo We! That must've been a load getting that on your cabinet. You ended up really treating yourself. So, it looks like a marriage of both a pure tube preamp section to a solid state amplifier? Which with the McIntosh pedigree. You have the best of both. I've used tube preamps with solid state for some years and I'm sold on tube preamps. My experience is they work great with solid state and tube amplification. Whatever works and works well I say. There goes your audio budget now for the next 20 years.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2020 15:01:55 GMT

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Sweet!

Merry Christmas to Fred!

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2020 22:24:25 GMT

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I'm thinking if it has a tube preamp section and a ss amp section, I should post here in Silicon Valley. If it's vice versa, I should post in the Thermionic Emissions forum. :lol:

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sat, 19 Dec 2020 02:10:32 GMT

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Hi Fred, Nice amp...but I would rather have a 275. Since Mac has been doing both SS and tube for a long time I doubt you could go wrong with one that mixes the two.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Sat, 19 Dec 2020 22:07:01 GMT

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gofar99 wrote on Fri, 18 December 2020 20:10Hi Fred, Nice amp...but I would rather have a 275.

A 275? How could you possibly prefer a 275? It doesn't have meters! :lol:

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [Barryso](#) on Sun, 20 Dec 2020 12:34:43 GMT

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That's a great amp, Fred. Congratulations.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Sun, 20 Dec 2020 19:18:47 GMT

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Wow Fred! 8) Let us know how she sounds!!!

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Wed, 23 Dec 2020 22:26:21 GMT

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johnnycamp5 wrote on Sun, 20 December 2020 13:18Wow Fred! 8) Let us know how she sounds!!!

Sounds like the Krell it replaced, but I don't hear much difference between amps. I bought it because I think it looks cool with the green LED's and the power meters.

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