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Subject: Tube amps and SS amps may be indistinguishable!

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Thu, 05 Aug 2004 19:51:56 GMT

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Compelling argument, Martin. Essentially, you are saying that provided the Q of the system is kept reasonable, the difference between a tube amp and an SS amp is negligible. Given that even a cheap SS amp produces essentially perfect waveforms, and if euphonic distortion is not the answer, then you are most likely right. Maybe the whole tube amp hoop-la is to do with its interaction effects, (which can be negated with properly designed passive circuits in a highly efficient speaker), plus of course the usual HYPE of the audio vendors/reviewers. Hmmm...makes me think. What do i do with my 4 tube amps? :-) I'm going to keep them, but i will no longer accept as Gospel that they sound better than SS. Great points! One last question, have you ever done a listen-off between a SET and an SS on any of your speakers? If they sound essentially indistinguishable (with proper compoensations applied in each case) then you are totally right. It would be interesting to do such a listen-off. You know, take a pair of speakers, and put the relevant amp/network combos in fornt of them. Also, the whole 1 watt amp thing...to me it's just the usual audio hype. The fact that some vendors are "excited" about this and call it a "breakthrough"...well... i can tell you what i think they are excited about, and it begins with a D----- and is colored green. -akhilesh