Subject: Re: Reducing amp volume
Posted by Damir on Thu, 13 Apr 2006 11:31:54 GMT
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Reduced volume can be obtained in various ways - switching output tubes to triode operation, switching off one pair of output tubes (when amp has 4 tubes), reducing anode/g2 voltages (by some kind of autotransformer, or switching trafo taps) while keeping heater voltage the same, etc.Some manufacturers have "speaker emulators/attenuator" units, but we have different opinions about safe use of them, especially with simple, resistive units.The simplest method for reducing output power is resistive attenuator. For example, your speaker cabinet is 8 Ohms (check it), and amp "gives" 50W to it. It means 20V/2,5A on the 8-Ohms speaker. We can connect the power resistor of 8 Ohms/25W in parallel with speaker, and another resistor of 4 Ohms / 50W in series with this combination (between the amp, and speaker + 8-Ohms resistor in parallel). Now, amp "sees" 8-Ohms load as before, but only 12,5W reaches the speaker. We dissipated 25W in 4-Ohms resistor, and another 12,5W in 8-Ohms resistor. You can build a small metal case with two jacks (one to the amp, another to the speaker) and resistors inside, connected on the chasis (heatsink).