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Subject: Re: Which Is Better, Tube Amps or Solid-State Amps?

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Wed, 23 Mar 2011 03:00:34 GMT

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AudioFred wrote on Wed, 09 March 2011 17:24 There was a time when budget priced solid state equipment sounded harsh and grainy compared to tube equipment. Solid state has improved quite a bit in the last ten years, and that \$500 fifty watt amps sounds pretty good.

Funny, my experience is just the opposite. Back in the Seventies, along with platform shoes I had a Bedini 25/25 pure Class A, mosfet power amp that was wonderfully musical. I think it was about \$350. In the Eighties my Muse 100 (I'm still on the lookout for a well-priced Muse amp) and Counterpoint SA-100 were excellent. All 3 of these played Acoustat 1+1s, not at all forgiving on top!

Over the past several years I've had An Accuphase E-450 integrated \$4500, A Conrad-Johnson Sonographe 250 \$1250, A Classe CR-70 \$900 and a B&K 202ST, none of which had acceptable upper mids and treble. All were grainy, or etched, or both. The only really fine SS amps I've heard in the past 5 years were the big John Curl monoblocks \$8000 and the McCormack DNA 1 \$1995.

My Tubelab Simple SE has less than \$400 in parts and is sublime with \$50/pair EH 6CA7s. OK, maybe not sublime, but it kills any of the above-mentioned solid state.

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