
Subject: Re: Miniwatt amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Thu, 08 Mar 2012 21:22:25 GMT

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I've bought a couple of very inexpensive tube amps off Ebay, and I found that an amp that's designed to sell as cheaply as possible with great eye appeal is likely to have compromises built into it. I can't comment on this brand, but I believe it's safe to say that you don't get what you don't pay for.

My most recent experience was a \$250 EI84 amp, bought on Ebay and direct-shipped from Hong Kong. The neat looking wood faceplate was attached with silicone adhesive, which did not survive the ocean voyage and fell off when I opened the box. The volume control was the kind you get for \$2.00 at a local electronics supply store, and within six months it was noisy. The sound, especially the bass control, wasn't too great either. But the amp looked great, and the tubes were cool glowing in the dark with blue LED's shining through from beneath them!

If you already have a good amp and just want a small, nice looking low power amp to play with in a second system, these would be good, but if you want something that's built with good parts and good quality control I would expect to pay more.
