

---

Subject: Re: What happened to standards for advertised power?

Posted by [FloydV](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2013 17:44:38 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

gofar99 wrote on Thu, 14 March 2013 22:08Hi, Yes I design things with tubes. Without getting into which is better tubes or SS, I will just state that they are different and I personally prefer the sound of tube audio. That all said... It is far easier to build powerful SS amps than tube ones. Also from a diy perspective a lot cheaper. Personally I have never found a need for more than 30-40 watts to drive any reasonable speaker system. So massive amounts of power are a non issue to me. My usual amps (as a designer and co-owner of an audio company I have many choices) are rated at 25 watts per channel. They drive my Martin Logan electrostatics quite well.

If you add a tube stage anywhere in a system it will introduce some "flavor" to the sound reproduction. The opposite is generally true if you add a SS stage to a tube system it will generally flavor it as well. Some designs for preamps with FETs are relatively benign. As you might guess there are no SS stages in my system with the exception of the power amps in a pair of sub woofers I am presently auditioning. They are set for response below 50 HZ and fortunately any artifacts they produce are largely innocuous. Normally I have more efficient subs and use tube amps on them.

I was thinking that what you are saying about amps is true. First, that you don't need huge amounts of power, and second that SS would be easier to generate huge amounts of power.

If I recall, it takes a doubling of power for every db of increase in sound. I have heard that repeated many times, but it seems kind of overstated. It is difficult for me to hear an increase of 1 db, it generally takes 2 db for me to notice a real change.

I agree about the subs too. I keep seeing expensive SS ab amps for them. In my opinion, when you get to 80 db, you don't really need to spend that much.

Are Martin Logins electrostatic speakers? I'll be they sound nice when paired with subs.

---