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Subject: Re: Transformer testing???

Posted by [metasonix](#) on Tue, 25 May 2004 03:03:39 GMT

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>The most likely failure mode of a power supply transformer is for it to open. Not always. In my experience, it is more common for either the primary to open, OR to develop a partial or full short. And plate secondaries can go either way. I just recently saw 2 quite different plate transformers from different tube amps, develop dead shorts across their high-voltage secondaries. (Both amps were Chinese made, sorry to say...) One way to help minimize this is simple: put a 2 ohm to 5 ohm 10W resistor in series with the primary. It limits the huge inrush current at turn-on, helping prevent internal arcing. Also a 100 ohm resistor in the plate winding, BEFORE THE RECTIFIER, can help protect the secondary. Two 50 ohm, one on either side, if it is a center-tapped winding with the CT grounded. Yes, even if you have tube rectifiers. These are simple and cheap things you can do, which mfrs. usually don't--to save a few dollars.

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