Subject: Re: Transformer testing??? Posted by metasonix on Tue, 25 May 2004 03:03:39 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

>The most likely failure mode of a power supply transformer is for it to openNot always. In my experience, it is more common for eitherthe 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 theirhigh-voltage secondaries. (Both amps were Chinese made,sorry to say...)One way to help minimize this is simple: put a 2 ohm to 5 ohm10W resistor in series with the primary. It limits thehuge 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 ifyou have tube rectifiers.These are simple and cheap things you can do, which mfrs.usually don't--to save a few dollars.

