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Subject: Fender Twin Reverb

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 16 Jan 2005 22:12:54 GMT

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I'm not a person to say either technology "wins hands down." I assumed with this document being on Marshall Leach's website that it would be a pretty accurate comparison. I've seen most of these kinds of comparisons made, so to be honest, I didn't bother to read this until just now. But because of the reactions, I thought I'd give it a quick read through. I noticed the underdamped response curve right off the bat. That indicates a serious underdamping in the tube amp's output circuit, and probably represents a nearly worst-case situation. The transistor amp is pretty well damped, so its response curve is flat. But the tube amp circuit droops in the midbass and peaks in the bass. If this paper were written to describe all tube amps, I would have objected to this as an oversimplification. Not all tube amps and loudspeakers will exhibit this anomaly. It's an obvious condition of high output impedance with a reactive loudspeaker load. It's a textbook case, really. This is what happens when you drive a reactive circuit with a constant current source. There are things that are done to address this in a high-fidelity tube sound system. But this paper was written about guitar amps and not about hifi. It was written specifically about the Fender Twin Reverb amplifier. It's a nice amp and was popular with guitar players when this paper was written. I'd have to say that I agree with the author completely. It does exactly what he says it does. Not a bad thing, mind you. It's perfect for what it is used for.

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