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Subject: bass preamp and 6418 pentode

Posted by [basstub](#) on Thu, 21 Jul 2005 04:10:24 GMT

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Hi All While I've been in Electronics for quite some time, it's not as long as valves. Sad is I missed that period of electronics. So to fix this and also to build a bass guitar valve preamp. I'd like to get some warm fuzz 2nd harmonic and compression distortion. I started looking around. I came across two kits available to me here. I figured best start with someone else's ideas b4 branching out on my own. <http://oatleyelectronics.com/kits/Notes/k188a.jpg> This one is using a very cheap low voltage Pentode type tube called a

6418 <http://www.mif.pg.gda.pl/homepages/frank/sheets/127/6/6418.pdf> However either they haven't got it right or I'm not learning/understanding as much as I'd hoped. I couldn't find too many sites that specifically explained this type of pentode. ie Pentodes I found seemed to have other connections available. Cathode for eg. Anyway I came to the conclusion..and please help here. The Pentode isn't really much good for preamp as it's better suited to driver stage. The circuit they provided seems more of an intermediate stage? I was getting a measly gain of only 2.5 from their circuit. I pretty much had to put 2vpp into the sucker to get my soft clipping effect that I wanted (@ an output of 5v) Not too many guitars give 2vpp out. Sad. So where to from here. I can easily put an attenuator on the output to drop it back to line levels (which is what my SS amp wants to see) I guess I can put a SS opamp type pre-preamp. Smile to get the guitar level up to the 2v needed to start to drive this tube into overload. OR am I really off the rails here? Can we tweak the pentode circuit a bit better? I do have a 12AX7 circuit that I'm also playing with. It's much more noted on the net for this use. It is bigger, and more complicated to power etc so I would like to pursue the above 6418 a little more b4 shifting to the AX. Help much appreciated