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Subject: The EL34 vs 6L6 debate

Posted by [Dava](#) on Mon, 10 Aug 2020 17:11:45 GMT

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## EL34

- More mids, which could be perceived as a "fatter" tone.
- breaks up earlier
- More vintage tone
- British tone
- A crunchier sound.

EL34 questions: Why don't I see many high gain metal bands using EL34s these days? I know it might be because they don't want PT breakup, but EL34s and metal still sound great...

## 6L6

- More pronounced bass and highs. Less mids.
- Sparkly cleans.
- More headroom.
- American tone.
- More aggressive sound.

6L6 questions: Why are 6L6 valves associated as being the best for cleans? I know there is more headroom with 6L6 valves, but let's say if I wanted to switch out 6L6s for EL34s, would my clean tone be worse, or could it be better?

Overall, do you prefer EL34 or 6L6 valves/tubes and why? It would be interesting to gather opinions on this subject, and see which the UG community prefers. Thanks so much.

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