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Subject: Re: Mullard KT88

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 08 Sep 2025 17:15:00 GMT

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OK, so I've had my new Mullard KT88 tubes in my amplifier for a little less than a month now and have listened for probably a couple dozen hours or so, mostly in two hours stretches or thereabouts. So it's time to report back.

This is just a listening evaluation without measurements, and that's something I normally don't do. That said, take this post for what it is. Total seat of the pants observation.

So far, I think I like these tubes. They are somewhere between the Tung-Sol 6550 and the Electro-Harmonix 6550 in the range of smoothness. Neither of those tubes lack smoothness, but the EH sounds a little more detailed and the TS sounds a little more laid-back. The Mullard KT88 is sort of in-between.

To be honest, I am interested also in the longevity of these Mullards in my Audio Note Kit 2. I think I may have mentioned this here or in another thread, but just in case I hadn't, I find that KT88 tubes don't last as long as 6550 tubes. They don't fail right out of the box, but they do seem to have a shorter lifespan. We'll see on these.

They do sound nice though. Time will tell if they get to be "regular stock" tubes for me like the Tung-Sols and the Electro-Harmonix.

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