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Subject: Re: Mullard KT88

Posted by [positron](#) on Fri, 12 Sep 2025 04:02:11 GMT

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Wayne Parham wrote on Mon, 08 September 2025 12:15

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.

Thanks for your report Wayne. I think we both agree on the sound vs the TS 6550. As mentioned previously, I am running the tubes idle at ~440 P-K volts with cathode bias.

As mentioned in another post somewhere, I had a TS short with less than a thousand hours, and side getters quite used on all 4 of the tubes.

I have not tried with higher P-K voltage and/or with fixed bias with the M tubes.

So far, I am very pleased with the new Mullard KT88s. Will keep in touch if any problems.

Cheers

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