
Subject: Re: Solid State vs. Vacuum Amps
Posted by [positron](#) on Wed, 03 Dec 2025 12:54:37 GMT
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In general, I have found all tube/solid state designs are quite inaccurate (specs mean virtually nothing except channel separation high frequency response, damping factor etc within reason.

However, in my lab/audio company, retired for over a decade, I was able to create a line pre-amplifier that listening tested perceptually perfect to the source. Many musical selections were used because of differing quality.

The amplifier was different as I used a constant load. When connecting a reactive load, one has to match more carefully, both the correct total gauge speaker wire for bass control, and parallel wires to minimize reactance at higher frequencies. The wire type, Jenalabs 6N all copper, worked nicely, and is quite superior sounding to 3N wire sold locally.

One caveat is that every component used, sources, line pre-amplifier, monoblock amps use polypropylene capacitors in the place of electrolytic capacitors in decoupling applications (except high voltage amplifier power supply with electrolytics bypassed by a large polypropylene capacitor, and multiple cathode bypass capacitors). As such, the system is extremely transparent, perceived sonic differences down to 1 part in 4,000,000 reliably.

I would guess most audio systems would not be as sensitive, so sonic differences may not be as noticeable.

cheers

pos