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Subject: Re: Popular myths about tube amps

Posted by [positron](#) on Thu, 15 Jan 2026 14:28:14 GMT

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Kurt wrote on Sun, 11 January 2026 03:03I am someone who's invested a lot in keeping tube amps alive and it saddens me when I see some myths about thermionic emission around some communities.

Which ones have you seen recently?

Personally, I have one that I've seen and I would like to clear the air about them.

I've seen this myth that tube amps are inferior to solid-state. I believe this is absolute nonsense. I mean we've got recent tubes from brands such as Tung-Sol performing absolutely better than vintage Nos, for example. I've got the boutique 50W head doing well since 2019 when I got it. I've only done some routine bias checks and occasional tube replacement. I believe that reliability comes from great power supply design and not basically from pushing tubes beyond specs.

Which other ones do you have in mind that you think are wrong?

Hi Kurt,

I have also heard that myth about SS being better. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have a couple of posts in this string, below, mentioning just a few differences, and why SS will never be perfect to the source but Tube amplifier can be extremely close.

One caveat to mention is that as one gets closer to perfect accuracy to the source, one must be more careful to the "little" things.

As one example, I have been R&D analog since 1980, delving into audio perception and component design, and use multiple 6N pure copper speaker wires in parallel, for both minimal inductance at high frequencies, and total gauge for optimal woofer damping (at least the best one can obtain).

Besides those two, one must consider a flat response over the entire audio band since the speaker impedance changes (usually cone types) from minimal to maximum. I have found that there is an optimal total gauge that will give flattest frequency response, and most natural sound.

<https://audioroundtable.com/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=21561&start=0&>

Thanks for starting this string Kurt.

Cheers

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