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Subject: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [Rick B](#) on Fri, 05 Mar 2010 18:51:37 GMT

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I'm messing around with a tri-amped project and need a small inexpensive tube amp to drive my tweeters with. They're compression horn tweeters and a couple watts per side would work fine.

I've looked at the "Audio Angel" Chinese amps on ebay and they're quite cheap price wise. Anyone here familiar with them?

Anyone know of anything else around?

All I need is one set of line level RCA ins and output jacks for two speakers. A volume control would be nice too.

Any thoughts?

[http://cgi.ebay.com/MA-6P1-6AQ5-x4-Hi-End-Stereo-Integrated-Tube-Amplifier\\_W0QQitemZ280469456700QQcmdZViewItemQQptZLH\\_DefaultDomain\\_0?hash=item414d48473c](http://cgi.ebay.com/MA-6P1-6AQ5-x4-Hi-End-Stereo-Integrated-Tube-Amplifier_W0QQitemZ280469456700QQcmdZViewItemQQptZLH_DefaultDomain_0?hash=item414d48473c)

TIA

Rick

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 05 Mar 2010 19:17:39 GMT

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I like Audio Note amps, but they're not what I'd call cheap. They aren't real expensive either, so I think they're worth a mention.

Then there are the Stoetkit amps, which I think are great but hard to get. Once Frank Stuppel died, I sort of lost my connection. So I guess I'm no help there.

Look also at amps from DIYhifiSupply and Welborne Labs.

Of course, you also have Bottlehead amps. They sound pretty nice and are fun to build. They're like small block Chevys, with lots of upgrade parts and good support. I always hated how they looked, like an erector set, if you asked me, but that's easy enough to change. Build a custom chassis and make it as pretty as you please.

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

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Posted by [jimdgoulding](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2010 00:49:37 GMT

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<http://store.virtueaudio.com/category-s/27.htm>

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2010 03:27:52 GMT

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I saw those at LSAF and they seemed like neat little amps, but I think Virtue Audio only makes digital amps. The only ones listed on their shopping cart are digital. Do they make any tube amps? I don't think they do, but perhaps I'm mistaken.

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [jimdgoulding](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2010 04:35:33 GMT

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Oh my, it wasn't Virtue I was thinking about, it was Dodd Audio. I don't know how much they are.

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2010 15:35:06 GMT

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Oh, gotcha. I did see Dodd Audio makes tube amps. Do you know if they make kits? If Rick needs to save money, kits are a good way to keep the cost down. Might be an option. Then again, the Dodd Audio stuff might be real reasonably priced anyway. Definitely worth checking! Hopefully they'll chime in here with some prices.

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [jimdgoulding](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2010 16:37:23 GMT

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I don't know, sorry.

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [jimdgoulding](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 01:59:35 GMT

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JoLida, perhaps, also.

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [audioaudio90](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2010 14:56:11 GMT

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I like Audio Note amps as well. You can buy outright or they do offer kits if you are interested in building one yourself. That would be a fun project.

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [Adveser](#) on Wed, 15 Dec 2010 01:22:41 GMT

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I see Mono (?) all-tube pre-amps in Sweetwater's catalogue for 100 bucks a piece. Their I/O is 1/4 mono jacks, I believe.

I am not an amplifier expert by any means, but shouldn't that work?

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Subject: Re: Could someone point me toward an inexpensive tube amp?

Posted by [Shane](#) on Sun, 19 Dec 2010 04:16:54 GMT

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If you want something that's not manufactured, I might suggest you contact Tom McNally about building you one. He makes a lot of small wattage amps (Darlings, 6EM7's, etc...). He's on the diytube.com website.

Another option is that over on the Hawthorne audio site they have a small spud amp kit that is based off of one of Jef Larson's designs (Abraxasaudio). It's a great amp that will give you 2-3 watts for a little over \$300 in parts and that includes the powdercoated drilled chassis. If you can solder at all you can build this amp. I've owned one of Jef's amps before and I can tell you whatever he designs is solid.

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