
Subject: amp hizzz

Posted by [jim denton](#) on Tue, 06 Apr 2004 20:58:13 GMT

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Whats the trick to making my amp quiet---I'd like to get rid of this hissy noise---is that replacing cap??? Jim

Subject: Re: amp hizzz

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 06 Apr 2004 21:53:33 GMT

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Certain amp topologies that maximize gain have poor S/N.

Subject: Re: amp hizzz

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 10 Apr 2004 04:18:14 GMT

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Any luck replacing those caps?

Subject: Re: amp hizzz

Posted by [Thermionic](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2004 17:36:21 GMT

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Jim, there are several causes of excess hiss. Two of the most notable culprits are old carbon composition plate load resistors that have become noisy with time (in older amps), and faulty SS rectifier diodes. I've seen diodes produce so much white noise that it became louder than the music! What's funny is that they'll still work.....The noise from old CC plate load resistors is low level, with intermittent fizzing and crackling. The noise from diodes is a constant level. Thermionic

Subject: Re: amp hizzz

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 12 Apr 2004 23:19:24 GMT

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That's good advice. I agree with you - Resistors, transistors and diodes are more likely to cause white noise than capacitors. A bad PS cap will cause hum, but hiss is more likely from a semiconductor. I don't think Jim has any semiconductor diodes in his amp, but he definitely has resistors. I've seen lots of old gear with cracked potentiometer substrates, and they'll make noise too. It crackles when you rotate the knob and cleaning doesn't help. The resistance changes through warm-up, it makes and breaks connection and causes a lot of noise. So I agree with you about resistors, both fixed and variable. I'd look there before I'd look at caps, which normally fail open or get lossy. Neither condition usually makes the symptoms Jim described. Might look at mechanical connections too, like tube sockets, switches, potentiometers and what-not.
