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Subject: dynaco

Posted by [tube newbie](#) on Tue, 29 Jun 2004 19:54:23 GMT

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what dynaco is best? what price is fair on ebay? are they as good as new tube amps made these days?

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Subject: Re: dynaco

Posted by [metasonix](#) on Wed, 30 Jun 2004 01:01:42 GMT

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Any Dynaco is good. If you just need a small amp for low-power listening, the SCA-35 or ST-35 are great. If you need more power, look for a decent ST-70 (they got loved a lot, so finding one in good shape is difficult). And get Mark IIIs if an ST-70 isn't enough. BEWARE of units showing rust--it really ate those chassis quickly, and rust is usually a sign of abuse or neglect. Such amps almost always need new filter capacitors, and often new power tubes. Once rebuilt they are as good as new amplifiers in performance. Ebay can be a dangerous place to look for old tube amps, so be aware of this. If you win a bid, tell the owner that you won't accept an amp that has a bad transformer, lots of rust, or other major problems. If they act squirrely, CANCEL the bid.

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Subject: Re: dynaco

Posted by [tube newbie](#) on Wed, 30 Jun 2004 03:45:00 GMT

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thank you for your advice. are the transformers available? expensive or impossible to replace?

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Subject: Re: dynaco

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Wed, 30 Jun 2004 15:31:40 GMT

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IMHO, dynaco amps, are useful if you are looking for using with speakers with normal efficiencies (85-89 db) if you have efficient speakers (90 db +) then there are plenty of other choices....for examble the stoekit from heart audio, that i am currently reviewing, that sound pretty good. If you do buy a dynaco, spend the \$600 and buy one that has been done up completely, otherwise you may be entering a never ending cycle of buzz and hum.....just my 2 cents-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: Raining on the Dynaco parade  
Posted by [BillEpstein](#) on Wed, 30 Jun 2004 21:16:39 GMT  
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All the while I was building my ELLA amp, I was listening to A restored ST-70 courtesy of Speakerman. Over about a 2 week period I became very familiar with it's sound. Once I hooked up ELLA, it was obvious that the Dynaco lacked the detail up and down the frequency range of ELLA and had less low end weight. It was warmer sounding but not as "balanced". We later had a shoot-out at Ron's place and the Wave 8's also fell well short. 2 of the most over-rated amps out there, I would say.

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Subject: Re: dynaco  
Posted by [hurdy\\_gurdyman](#) on Wed, 30 Jun 2004 23:05:35 GMT  
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Sounds like good advice for ANY respected vintage amp.Dave

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Subject: Re: dynaco  
Posted by [metasonix](#) on Thu, 01 Jul 2004 05:01:01 GMT  
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> are the transformers available? expensive or impossible to replace?The power trans on the ST-70 runs very hot and fails occasionally.And in 1990 I counted 6 different Stereo-70 driver boards on the market. Most of those companies have since dropped out of sight.Magnequest makes some Dyna replacement transformers. Rather costly at ~\$150 each. Curcio Audio still makes new Stereo-70 driver boards and repair kits for Dynas. Curcio now calls himself Dynaco Doctor (<http://www.dynaco-doctor.com/>).After some looking around, I found that Triode Electronics (Ned Carlson) now carries new driver boards and transformers for Dynas. Their prices are more reasonable too.<http://store.yahoo.com/triodeel/dynacoupgrades.html>(I should warn you that Ned is very opinionated and also friendly with some of the more antisocial elements on Audio Asylum and [rec.audio.tubes.com](http://rec.audio.tubes.com).)Welborne Labs has new driver boards for ST-70s and Mark III's.<http://www.welbornelabs.com/st70.htm>There's also the Van Alstine stuff.[http://www.avahifi.com/root/equipment/dyna\\_rebuilds.html](http://www.avahifi.com/root/equipment/dyna_rebuilds.html) should note that if you replace one bad output trans on an old Dyna stereo amp with one of these new replacements, the channel with the new trans might sound slightly different from the channel with the old trans. Usually unavoidable. You could always try a vintage hifi repairer like VTV (which I do occasional work for). VTV actually has a stockpile of genuine old Dyna transformers. (Not cheap!)If you go looking on search engines or other websites for Dyna info, be aware that they tend to be out of date and / or contain errors or misinformation. For example:<http://www.tnt-audio.com/ampli/dynaco1e.html>It's a pretty good article, though I take great exception to his statement that Dyna output transformers were "among the best ever made". Not really true, and you can even get new ones (Plitrons, for

one) that make Dyna transformers look sick. Plus, that article is from 1998, and some of the advice is outdated.

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Subject: indeed, dave! (nt)  
Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Thu, 01 Jul 2004 06:30:24 GMT  
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nt

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Subject: Excellent advice Metasonix!  
Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Thu, 01 Jul 2004 06:32:36 GMT  
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Great advice! My impression after reading metasonix's post is to wonder, why bother with the dynaco? There are many other amps available today that are new. thanx-akhilesh

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Subject: Re: dynaco  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 01 Jul 2004 11:54:00 GMT  
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The stereo 70 was an excellent amp when they went for 150\$. I have one and have replaced the:Driver Board(sound values)125\$All tube sockets w/ceramic 80\$The power supply w/Curcio's upgrade90\$power supply choke 20\$various jacks and resistors and caps 50\$All in all it now is a very good sounding amp but for approx. 500\$Now I see them going for 400\$ just for the amp so do the math. The stock units are not so fine sounding but you can replace certain caps and other parts to squeak by but I would look elsewhere.I use it when I need power the amp drives the PI 4's to very respectable levels. Good for backyard parties!

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