Subject: el34
Posted by valvetrain on Wed, 21 Jul 2004 23:17:59 GMT
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what are the hi points and low points of the el34? how does it compare with other tubes?

Subject: Re: el34
Posted by akhilesh on Fri, 23 Jul 2004 20:51:47 GMT
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HI,I think a lot would depend on the overall circuit, and the parts used. If the circuit is right, most tubes will be pretty linear. If the parts are good quality, the amplifier should be more transparent and control frequencies better. In other words, it may be better to go for the best implementation, rather than go for any particular tube. Just my 2 cents.-akhilesh

Subject: Re: el34
Posted by metasonix on Sun, 25 Jul 2004 02:54:22 GMT
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If I may, past tests done by myself and others indicate that EL34s enjoy about 2-3 times more distortion than 6550s or KT88s in the same circuit.

Subject: Re: el34
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 25 Jul 2004 09:06:58 GMT
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Do they have the same pinouts and voltage requirements? Can 6550's or KT88's be used as a direct replacement for EL34's in a circuit so equipped?

Subject: Re: el34
Posted by metasonix on Sun, 25 Jul 2004 22:04:12 GMT
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Yes, except for grid bias voltage. Also, the 6550s would be more reliable than the EL34s because 6550 screen grids don't draw as much current. Screen overheating is a major cause of EL34 premature death. Ask any guy who plays metal thru a Marshall amp.

Subject: Re: el34
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 26 Jul 2004 00:09:01 GMT
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How much difference is there in bias voltage?

Subject: Re: el34
Posted by metasonix on Mon, 26 Jul 2004 01:35:52 GMT
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It is not a fixed ratio. 6550s need about 20-50% more negative bias voltage than EL34s in the same circuit. Depends on plate voltage, screen voltage and even the brands of tubes involved.

Subject: Re: el34
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 26 Jul 2004 01:55:01 GMT
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Thanks, Eric, that's the kind of information I was looking for. It's enough difference that they definitely shouldn't be considered drop-in replacements. A person could easily modify most circuits, some with as simple a change as a resistor or two. Others might need power supply mods or an entirely new supply. But either way, it isn't something that a tube roller could do without a soldering iron and some understanding of electronics.

Subject: Re: el34
Posted by valvetrain on Mon, 26 Jul 2004 12:13:20 GMT
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thanks for all your replies!
