Subject: Budget Amp
Posted by FredT on Wed, 27 Jul 2005 23:16:35 GMT
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Here's a true budget tube amp for anyone wanting to get into tubes on a very limited budget. I bought it new on Ebay for a winning bid of $150 plus $90 air freight from Hong Kong. I doubt it would stomp a Stoekit or asassinate an Audio Note, but it does sound very nice for what it is, and the Wima coupling caps in it are easily upgraded. It sounds amazingly good driving my line arrays.
Yarland FV-34 CIII Integrated Amplifier

Subject: Re: Budget Amp
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 28 Jul 2005 03:09:02 GMT
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Neat find, Fred. Congrats!

Subject: Re: Budget Amp
Posted by guitarplayer on Thu, 28 Jul 2005 13:58:16 GMT
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What's the User ID of the seller? How long did shipping take?Regards, Lee

Subject: Re: Budget Amp
Posted by Damir on Thu, 28 Jul 2005 14:33:10 GMT
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Very low price! When you consider DIY - it`s hard to buy a pair of decent OPTs for $150, "upgraded" Mundorf Supreme/Silver/Oil caps cost about $20 each, PT maybe $90, tubes at least $50 and much more NOS...Not to mention the case... I hope that amp sounds decent!

Subject: Forgot...
Posted by Damir on Thu, 28 Jul 2005 18:30:11 GMT
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...about Hammond. Their PP OPTs P-T1608 or P-T1609 (suitable for 2xEL84) are about $35 each, and PT, say P-T270HX (550Vct/200mA DC) is about $60.

Subject: Re: Budget Amp
Posted by FredT on Thu, 28 Jul 2005 19:50:11 GMT
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The seller is 18audioguy. His online store is at http://stores.ebay.com/eAudioguy-Online-Store_W0QQssPageNameZstrkQ3amefsQ3amesstQQtZkmShipping took nine days.

Subject: Blue LED's!
Posted by FredT on Thu, 28 Jul 2005 21:49:43 GMT
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I forgot to mention the kewlest thing about this amp: There are bright blue LED's just below the center hole of each of the two small signal tubes, which causees them to glow a brilliant blue in the dark. Isn't this hobby more fun even than mud wrestling with a supermodel?

Subject: Re: Blue LED's!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 29 Jul 2005 03:27:09 GMT
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No. Definitely not more fun than mud wrestling with a supermodel.But I do dig the blue LEDs. That part I think is really cool.

Subject: Re: Budget Amp
Posted by guitarplayer on Fri, 29 Jul 2005 21:18:51 GMT
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How's it sounding with a couple of days of break in?Regards, Lee

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Subject: Re: Budget Amp
Posted by metasonix on Wed, 03 Aug 2005 05:48:30 GMT
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in my experience, these Chinese amps usually sound really good. AND are a great bargain. If I were Audio Research or Conrad-Johnson I'd be worried.one thing, though--I've had quite a few of these things brought to me after the importer or mfr. disappeared. Usually the power transformer died, or there was heat damage due to something burning up on the PC board.so, if you want your tube amp to last, take some free advice--KEEP IT COOL. Point a fan at it and live with the noise. The amp will last longer.

Subject: Re: Budget Amp
Posted by FredT on Sat, 06 Aug 2005 10:27:34 GMT
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Sounds like good advice. I always turn on the ceiling fan when a tube amp is running. Buying the cheapest "anything" out there is a gamble, and that's especially true of tube equipment because of the higher operating parameters than solid state. I doubt this was designed with much excess capacity built into the power trannie, resistors, etc.