Subject: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by Chicken on Thu, 01 Sep 2011 11:53:51 GMT
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Do you ever buy tube amps on eBay? How do you know they will sound ok? Do you just go by the brand name and specs?

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by Danny on Thu, 01 Sep 2011 14:39:30 GMT
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Well, first, you will go by the specs. And then you will make sure you are buying from a reputable seller. I have actually had good experiences from shopping on eBay.

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by gofar99 on Thu, 01 Sep 2011 18:53:09 GMT
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Hi Another good thing to do is check out the forums on the type and model of the amp. Some on Ebay are cheap and there is often a good reason for that.

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by Chicken on Fri, 02 Sep 2011 12:14:08 GMT
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Well yes, I figured the specs would be one of the first things to look at, but I forgot to consider seller feedback. Can you tell I'm not on eBay often? I just prefer to hear something in person before I buy, although forum feedback is good too.

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by Danny on Sun, 13 Nov 2011 23:09:37 GMT
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I would have to say that I have had nothing but good luck with eBay. I just make sure the person has lots of good feedback before I buy something. I think there was only one time that I didn't receive something. It was coming from overseas. As soon as I questioned the seller, he promptly refunded my money.

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by Aki on Tue, 15 Nov 2011 19:31:09 GMT

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Bought everything from no-name 1940's PA amp to vintage McIntosh's on eBay.

Common sense prevails when buying things on eBay. In addition to the feedback checking, etc., I try to get the feel for the seller from the description. If the seller is into audio and knows the equipment, showing some pride of ownership, there likely won't be any issue.

On the other hand, it'll be a gamble buying from a seller who claims to have found that McIntosh MC275 in a cave somewhere, and has no knowledge of how to test it.

I have seen that gamble can payoff big time, but I'm not a gambling man....

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by gofar99 on Wed, 16 Nov 2011 01:21:52 GMT
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Show me the way to the cave... I agree, if the seller seems to understand the value and operational features of what he is selling then there is a good chance it is OK. Price is a good guide too, there are no pristine MC275s for $50.

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by likearecordbaby on Fri, 11 May 2012 20:36:32 GMT
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Yes I've bought some there, and eBay can be a great source for getting them reasonably priced. Just be picky about your seller by looking at their feedback, what they claim the condition is, etc.

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 14 May 2012 21:52:34 GMT
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Hi Another problem with all types of sites is the reviews. A number of less honest ones are writing their own "glowing" reviews.

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by Clint on Mon, 14 Sep 2026 18:50:00 GMT
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Yeah I’ve grabbed a few tube amps off eBay. Some were solid, a couple needed work pretty

quick.

I would say that brand and specs only get you so far. I check the seller’s feedback first—lots of sales and good ratings in audio stuff helps. Then I stare at the photos. I want to see the insides if they’re showing them, the tubes, any obvious wear or junk. If the listing is sparse I just message the guy and ask what’s up with the tubes, if it’s been worked on, does it hum, any weird noises. Decent sellers usually reply.

Still a gamble though. Caps go bad, tubes get tired, stuff like that. I’ve had ones that looked perfect and still needed a re-cap once they showed up. So I usually figure I’ll spend a little more getting a tech to look it over, especially on older ones. If the price is too good I get suspicious.

Specs tell you the basics but the real sound comes down to condition and the tubes more than anything. I just try not to get burned and accept that sometimes you’re still fixing things.

Subject: Re: Buying Amps on eBay
Posted by Kurt on Tue, 22 Sep 2026 04:38:03 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Mon, 14 May 2012 16:52Hi Another problem with all types of sites is the reviews. A number of less honest ones are writing their own "glowing" reviews.
I've, in the past, fallen into the trap of getting items on such sites after reading some "positive " reviews. Turns out the reviews said a different thing about what I got. I've been pretty careful about those lovely reviews since then.
