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Subject: Looking At NOS EL 34's...!

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2006 00:15:46 GMT

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Anyone see the prices they are getting for these tubes? In fact for any of the popular NOS tubes? I see 150\$ for a single EL 34 is not uncommon. Time to try some unusual tubes; like the 6Ah4 gt. Something has to give man; this is ridiculous. Are we going to build amps then be priced out of the market for tubes?

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Subject: SED/Wing-C

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2006 01:04:31 GMT

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Did you ever try these? What was your impression? Don't go crazy on the 6AH4 and make them the next hot tube. I still need the for my deHavilland Verve pre....

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Subject: Re: SED/Wing-C

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2006 11:22:25 GMT

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Funny you should ask. I bought a matched set of the winged C's about a yr ago. One just failed with light use. I guess that can happen to any tube at anytime though. The sound of the tube is nice; rich and full. I have all my 6Ah4's I need but guess what? They too are creeping up in price. I didn't realise they were used as much as they apparently are. What happened to Guinevere; you don't use that amp?

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Subject: Re: SED/Wing-C

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2006 12:22:52 GMT

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You're right about tube prices, and obviously not just the ones we've mentioned. This hobby could get real 'pensive over the next few years. Vintage tubes - just forget about them. Everytime I go to an auction/flea market/yard sale, I look for old radios - just for the tubes. I just recently picked up a couple of console radios from the 50s for \$10; both have 6V6 PP amps. One has a couple of TungSol 12AX7s, which are easily worth more than what I paid. If you can bias each tube in your amp, I'd just get a single Wing/C and be done with it. Thanks for mentioning the failure. I purchased a matched quad about a year ago for my Cayin. I'll have to keep an eye one

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them. Guinevere is in need of serious repair. I was never very happy with the copper chassis. I used copper that was too thin and it's pretty microphonic. I can tap the top plate and hear the ringing. Also, the last time it was running I lost a ground somewhere and heard nothing but 120Hz buzzing. About 6 months ago I picked up a deHavilland Verve and a Yamamoto A-08S. It's a very nice combination, so I'm not real pushed to fix Guinevere any time soon.....

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Subject: Re: SED/Wing-C

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2006 15:00:35 GMT

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Yep; I'll probably replace the tube; or maybe run down to Sam Ash and grab a couple Groove Tubes EL 34's EDC's. They seem to sound pretty good in my friends amp. I have looked to find out exactly why there are four different kinds of EL 34 Groove Tubes. I know one is a 6Ca7 and another one is a re-branded Sovtek; but the other two look different to me than what's out there. I know I like their 12Ax7's in the driver stage. On Guinevere you at least know all the parts can be re-used if you decide not to re-do the chassis.

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Subject: Re: SED/Wing-C

Posted by [SteveBrown](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2006 15:40:45 GMT

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FWIW, I love EL34's but I tried a quad of EH not long ago and was really disappointed. Not sure they don't just need more time on them, but so far, not my favorite. I do like the older Svetlana (bought several years ago). As for vintage, I was lucky enough to buy a vintage EL34 based amp about 8 years ago and guess what it had in it? Yep, an almost new (tested new) quad of Amprex BB's! Now those are hard to beat!

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Subject: Re: SED/Wing-C

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2006 16:59:41 GMT

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Yep; we are forever doomed to lust after tubes that are being priced out of our reach. It stinks knowing your amp could sound that much better but for the price of a tube.

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Subject: Re: SED/Wing-C

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Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Fri, 15 Sep 2006 09:11:32 GMT

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During my time with 'Ella' I used Valve Art and JJ EL-34's and EH 6CA7's. I thought the JJ's were too tipped up, the Valve Arts kinda dark and the EH's juuust right. These were the 'fat bottle' 6CA7, not the EH EL-34.

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Subject: Re: SED/Wing-C

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 15 Sep 2006 12:49:01 GMT

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Thats what I am trying to figure out. The Groove Tubes line-up includes four type's of EL 34's and one 6Ca7. They all look like other brands and one looks like the fat bottles. I need to do some research on this because they can be bought down the block from me so very convenient. And they run the same prices as the dealers for the same tubes.

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Subject: Re:Many Banthans died to bring us this information:

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Fri, 15 Sep 2006 21:50:10 GMT

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You can see how the VA body flares immediately from the base and up where the EH flares farther but more gradually. And it's a bit shorter.e.g. "Fat Bottle"

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Subject: Re:Many Banthans died to bring us this information:

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 15 Sep 2006 22:54:02 GMT

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That is similar to the ECD model although looking at the photo it's hard to tell how similar. One of the models has a somewhat dimpeled top to it also; I don't know which.I assume one of the two tube facories left is making all of them but I can't say for certain.

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Subject: Re:Many Banthans died to bring us this information:

Posted by [Blooze](#) on Sat, 16 Sep 2006 16:55:12 GMT

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I've got a pair of GE Fatbottles NOS. These any good? as I'm hoping to do a SE EL34 someday.

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Subject: Re: Looking At NOS EL 34's...!

Posted by [dividebytube](#) on Tue, 19 Sep 2006 17:06:28 GMT

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Matsushita EL34s are of excellent quality - Japanese made, but supposedly with Mullard tooling. You often see them in Ebay under El-Menco, RCA, GE, Amperex, etc - but they usually have the 'Made in GT Britain' printed somewhere on the tube. scroll down on the link to see a pic...  
<http://www.jogis-roehrenbude.de/EL34-Story/EL34-Story-Seite5.htm>

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Subject: Re:Many Banthans died to bring us this information:

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 24 Sep 2006 17:41:02 GMT

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Yeah; I would say they are good. The EL 34 SE; which circuit did you have in mind?

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Subject: EL34 SE

Posted by [Shane](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2006 01:57:14 GMT

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I haven't really studied for any yet. I've glanced at the one on Angela's site. My interest is that I purchased the Nelson Audio EL34 that Wayne had on loan as a demo from a couple of years ago. I heard it on his 7 Pi's at his house when I first met him and just really liked the sound. Unfortunately I wasn't able to pay the dealer that day and needed to run it by the significant other first. So after a week or so I paid the dealer and Wayne shipped it to me. UPS promptly dropped it hard enough to bust some connections loose and break a few other things on the inside which I wasn't aware of at the time because the outside looked in good shape. Put the tubes in it, fired it up, and boom----the whole thing went up in flames. I decided then and there that I'd never have another tube amp shipped to me. I'd either buy a new one at the dealers or build my own. So I got into building simple headphone amps to get a feel for soldering and such and now it's time to try my hand at a full fledged tube amp. The first I've decided will either be a Darling or a 6EM7 SE amp due to the fact they are fairly inexpensive, simple, and sound pretty damn good, basically use the same PS, and I have the tubes. Then we shall move onto the EL34 which is always in the back of my mind.

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Subject: Re: EL34 SE

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2006 15:22:30 GMT

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That deal always bummed me out too. I wish Frank had just let me send that amp home with you that day.

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Subject: Re: EL34 SE

Posted by [Shane](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2006 15:54:42 GMT

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Yeah, it was a nice little amp, too! I'm just glad that you were able to get UPS to own up to their screwup. Frank was a standup guy about it as well.

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