
Subject: EL156

Posted by [Steve](#) on Fri, 12 Jan 2007 15:18:15 GMT

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I was wondering if anyone has used or heard much about the EL156 tube?

Subject: Re: EL156

Posted by [Poindexter](#) on Mon, 15 Jan 2007 18:17:01 GMT

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I went and looked it up; that bugger is some linear in triode! You have these? Where in the world are you going to find sockets for them? Aloha, Poinz

Subject: Octal

Posted by [PakProtector](#) on Mon, 15 Jan 2007 21:36:59 GMT

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hey Poinz,

The new production is octal. Reportedly it is made by the same folks who did the later production for the European market. What I like is the KT90-big 50Watt plate dissipation. If I weren't getting such good results from Thoriated Tungsten, I would have long since gotten a few quads ov them...

6k6 a-a, 400V B+, 30% U-L, and 125 mA idle ought to make one sweet amp!

cheers,
Douglas

Subject: Re: Octal

Posted by [ttan98](#) on Thu, 25 Jan 2007 04:54:42 GMT

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This tube is pin compatible with KT88 and "can" replace KT88 but it has higher plate dissipation, hence gives more power.

It was first made by Telefunken as a substitute for KT88, now you buy it from China.

Just like KT88 you can wire it as KT88 in triode mode however it will give you more power.

Subject: Re: Octal

Posted by [Francois G](#) on Wed, 07 Feb 2007 18:11:23 GMT

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Could anyone help with a specific place to buy Chinese EL156 tubes. My search came up empty. Thanks.

Subject: Re: Octal

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 07 Feb 2007 18:39:23 GMT

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You might ping Aki at BOIAudioworks and see if he's got 'em.

Subject: Re: Octal

Posted by [Norris Wilson](#) on Mon, 12 Feb 2007 03:08:22 GMT

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If Bio Works does not have them. You can buy them from a dealer in China: www.supertnt.com

Subject: destruction test on el156

Posted by [Steve](#) on Tue, 20 Mar 2007 21:15:24 GMT

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I performed a destruction test (class A) of the chinese version by setting up one to dissipate 60 watts and the plate didn't turn cherry. I also disconnected the plate and checked the screen dissipation, approximately 22 watts. The screen, of course, turned cherry, but no arc over and continued to run for 30 minutes or more. I also upped it to nearly 30 watts for a couple of minutes, and the screen turned bright yellow, but again didn't arc. Pretty rugged I would say.

One thing I don't fully understand is that although the μ is 22 VS 8 for a KT88, and both have similar Gm specs (telefunken data), the triode curves for both are near identical. For approx 100ma, both take 100 volts at zero bias. This should not be. Any thoughts?

Subject: Re: destruction test on el156

Posted by [PakProtector](#) on Thu, 08 Nov 2007 00:57:18 GMT

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hey-Hey!!!,

I had to smile at your screen wattage testing. I once ran 85W through the g2 of a 4E27 I was testing when I forgot to put B+ on the anode. It survived OK...

As to the differences, which data are the 100V/100 mA data coming from? I assume your

measurements? I can't offer anything concrete, but a good sounding power pentode with a 60W plate is not going to get a very close look from me under most circumstances, eh?
cheers,
Douglas

Subject: Re: EL156
Posted by [SASAudioLabs](#) on Thu, 07 Jan 2010 02:23:25 GMT
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I designed and built PP ultra-linear 50 watt monoblocks and it does sound quite spectacular. Very transparent with great dimension, depth, width, dynamics, nice tonal response.

A keeper for sure.

Cheers.

Subject: Re: EL156
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 07 Jan 2010 02:58:04 GMT
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Sounds interesting! Can you post a picture of the amp?

Subject: Re: destruction test on el156
Posted by [SASAudioLabs](#) on Mon, 10 May 2010 16:01:03 GMT
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PakProtector wrote on Wed, 07 November 2007 18:57

hey-Hey!!!,

I had to smile at your screen wattage testing. I once ran 85W through the g2 of a 4E27 I was testing when I forgot to put B+ on the anode. It survived OK...

As to the differences, which data are the 100V/100 mA data coming from? I assume your measurements? I can't offer anything concrete, but a good sounding power pentode with a 60W plate is not going to get a very close look from me under most circumstances, eh?
cheers,
Douglas

It is quite obvious they simply posted 6550 curves to the EI-156.

If you are going to pop in and get cocky, I could care less about your little 75 watt plate dissipation 4E27 tube. I have worked, professionally, with much mightier tubes than that pip squeak tube.

How big do you want to go Doug?

The point is that the EL-156 tube is more rugged than the specs indicate, so the tube is run conservatively. Sometimes tubes get specs that they cannot meet without overloading.

Cheers.

Subject: Re: destruction test on el156
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 10 May 2010 18:09:13 GMT
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We were talking about 6550 and KT88 tubes here a while back:
Opinions please-New EL34, 6CA7, KT88 and 6550I have a handful of different 6550 and KT88 tubes from different manufacturers. But I've never tried an EL156. Do you think I should try that tube? Any brands you suggest?

Subject: Re: EL156
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 02:08:39 GMT
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Hi, I just got a quad of the EL156s for a friend who asked that I audition them before sending overseas to him. Such a deal. Physically they are a bit taller, but similar in construction to KT88s. As the designer of the OddBlock series of class A U/L push-pull amps these were an opportunity to push the envelope a bit for free. For comparison, I normally use JJ Blue Glass KT88s and for lower power JJ Blue Glass EL34s. I have tried many brands and types - but these seem to suit me best. The rest of the system is a modified Marantz CD5001 player, a preamp that I designed that will operate as active (tube) or passive, the OddBlocks, and Martin Logan Vista ESLs. For vinyl, a Dual 701 with Grado Prestige cartridge and a modified transistor preamp (I have a tube one in the works now). So back to the sound. I ran the EL156s at the same power level as the KT88s (450 B+ and 180 ma per pair at idle). The 156s are considerably more sensitive than the KT88s (expected if you look at the bias settings). The sound was powerful, very solid bass, almost too much, mids and highs very crisp. The sound was right in your face. Good sound stage width, good detail. Things like cymbals and bells were well sounded. Generally a great set of tubes for rock music. By comparison the JJ Blues are much more polite. Well rounded, not quite as much bottom end, very lush sound while maintaining the detail and separation well. The 156s could easily been pushed about 25% for more power if needed and I would expect the sound to be pretty much the same. Overall, a pretty good tube if you like your music crisp and powerful.

BTW I have a quad of matched KT120s coming next week. They could be really killers if they sound decent.

Hope this helps,

Subject: Re: EL156

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 13:11:57 GMT

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Excellent, Bruce, thanks for your input! I'll have to order a pair of EL156 tubes and give them a try!

Subject: Re: EL156

Posted by [SASAudioLabs](#) on Wed, 14 Jul 2010 15:12:54 GMT

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gofar99 wrote on Wed, 09 June 2010 21:08Hi, I just got a quad of the EL156s for a friend who asked that I audition them before sending overseas to him. Such a deal. Physically they are a bit taller, but similar in construction to KT88s. As the designer of the OddBlock series of class A U/L push-pull amps these were an opportunity to push the envelope a bit for free. For comparison, I normally use JJ Blue Glass KT88s and for lower power JJ Blue Glass EL34s. I have tried many brands and types - but these seem to suit me best. The rest of the system is a modified Marantz CD5001 player, a preamp that I designed that will operate as active (tube) or passive, the OddBlocks, and Martin Logan Vista ESLs. For vinyl, a Dual 701 with Grado Prestige cartridge and a modified transistor preamp (I have a tube one in the works now). So back to the sound. I ran the EL156s at the same power level as the KT88s (450 B+ and 180 ma per pair at idle). The 156s are considerably more sensitive than the KT88s (expected if you look at the bias settings). The sound was powerful, very solid bass, almost too much, mids and highs very crisp. The sound was right in your face. Good sound stage width, good detail. Things like cymbals and bells were well sounded. Generally a great set of tubes for rock music. By comparison the JJ Blues are much more polite. Well rounded, not quite as much bottom end, very lush sound while maintaining the detail and separation well. The 156s could easily been pushed about 25% for more power if needed and I would expect the sound to be pretty much the same. Overall, a pretty good tube if you like your music crisp and powerful.

BTW I have a quad of matched KT120s coming next week. They could be really killers if they sound decent.

Hope this helps,

As you know, the sound quality is dependent upon the design and brand parts used. Using a design and brand parts for a KT-88 is not going to be the same as one for the EL-156.

As an example, playing Stereophile 2, track 10, soundstage; the gent was easily 40 feet behind the mic (speaker) when he was so, and at the mic (speaker) when he was so. As I said, depends on the design and parts used if you wish it in your face or more relaxed etc. I listen to classical and rock all the time with great soundstage. No problem with bass, but that would depend upon the speaker/woofer, Q, room resonances/treatments etc.

Cheers.

ps. Here is a picture of test amps from the 2009 AKfest using KT88s, before I changed the design to EL-156s.

File Attachments

1) [ak9amp.jpg](#), downloaded 6552 times

Subject: Re: EL156

Posted by [SASAudioLabs](#) on Wed, 20 Jun 2012 19:44:16 GMT

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The photo is being updated. The 11A Reference Line Preamplifier is in a new Aluminum chassis and knobs. The Monoblock chassis are also to be in the same aluminum chassis, for a matching look.

The file is too large, so I will provide a link.

<http://www.sasaudiolabs.com/picture5.htm>

Cheers.
