Subject: New production 12AX7s
Posted by Bill Epstein on Mon, 22 Jan 2007 02:47:47 GMT
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I'm breaking in 2 pairs, Sovtek 12AX7LPS and Tung-sols. Driver tubes in the Cornet phono stage.They are quite different. The LPS' aew balanced and a bit cool: Telefunken-ish. The T-S have more bass weight and the most gorgeous Amperex-ish mid-range.

Subject: Re: New production 12AX7s
Posted by Shane on Mon, 22 Jan 2007 18:05:59 GMT
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I ran the Sovteks in my 5150 guitar amp --5 of em'. They were the stock tubes and always sounded grainy and noisy using the clean channel with a bad "bite" at the high end when distortion was kicked in-- for lack of better descriptions. Replaced them with JJ's where one was voiced to be warmer in the clean section. They just blew the Sovteks away in both noise and overall sound. Course this is high gain guitar stuff and not hi-fi. I just gave all the Sovteks away a couple months ago.

Subject: Re: New production 12AX7s
Posted by Thermionic on Tue, 23 Jan 2007 06:09:19 GMT
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Hi Shane,Out of curiosity, were the Sovteks indeed the 12AX7LPS? Typically the LPS sounds as smooth or smoother than JJ 12AX7s and is very quiet unless you put 'em in a high powered combo amp and crank it up, because those looooong plates will resonate. OTOH, the Sovtek 12AX7 WA and WB are just as you described, grainy, harsh, and noisy. JJ 'AX7's will slaughter 'em. If I'm not mistaken, one of those is the stock preamp tube in the 5150 nowadays, or else they used to be.Thermionic

Subject: Re: New production 12AX7s
Posted by Shane on Tue, 23 Jan 2007 20:45:29 GMT
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They were indeed 12AX7LPS's. This amp is the 5150 combo and obviously the tubes got worse sounding with more play due to the tremendous vibration, but they never sounded good from the get-go. I got the JJ's at Eurotubes. I don't remember which one was "voiced" a little different, but

just popping that one tube in place of the Sovtek was like night and day. I just replaced all 5 12AX7LPS's with the JJ's as well as the Sovtek power tubes for JJ's. It would be interesting to hear some NOS Tung-Sols in the power section.

Subject: Re: New production 12AX7s
Posted by Thermionic on Wed, 24 Jan 2007 21:47:57 GMT
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Thanks Shane, I appreciate your response. Sylvania STR386 6L6GCs would sound fantastic in that amp, if you could lay your hands on some. I know, I've heard them in a 5150 before. It was the original tube the amp came out with, until Peavey's stock dwindled. Peavey had commissioned an entire production run of the 6L6s from Sylvania way back when, but by the time the 5150 came out it was the only Peavey amp they were installing them in. You even had to show proof of 5150 ownership to get replacement Sylvanias from Peavey. That was a marvelous sounding tube. IMO, they were the best sounding 6L6GC I've ever used in guitar amps, regardless of the amplifier. I wish I knew then what I know now, because I pitched many sets that just had the new worn off them and replaced them with brand new ones. When I was a youngster, you could buy them for only $15/pr, so once they lost a little tone you could pitch them. Now, they're nonexistent. A friend of mine who owns a Peavey dealership has tons of them stashed back, but won't part with a single one. He has done both ear and electrical testing on well used ones versus new production 6L6GCs. The worn Sylvanias trump the brand new current production! How sad you can't get tubes like that any more. The closest thing I've heard to them is the winged C SED 6L6GC (which was patterend after the Sylvania), but it's just not the same.Thermionic

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