
Subject: Ping Steve Brown -- re: Seth(s)
Posted by [Skip Pack](#) on Thu, 29 Nov 2007 01:02:53 GMT
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Steve, I noticed in other noisier places that you seem to be getting ready to put a Seth together. I also noticed that you had done a 6B4G version a couple of years ago. Since I'm collecting bits for one, prompted by a Magnequest clearance of S240s a couple of weeks ago, I thought I'd check in with you. I currently expect to build the signal circuitry to the Mark II spec, but possibly do a different power supply. I have several 500 VA step up/down power transformers that would give 234 and 468 secondaries (AC), and thought I could use two bridges to make the 320 vdc B+ for the 2A3s and around 420 for the driver stage. Is this excess complication without commensurate benefit? For those unfamiliar with this amp check this link: http://www.magnequest.com/diy_lessard_2a3pp.html have a DAC to assemble before I start on this, just collecting pieces now. Thanks, Skip

Subject: Re: Ping Steve Brown -- re: Seth(s)
Posted by [Steve Brown](#) on Sun, 16 Dec 2007 13:12:56 GMT
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Skip, sorry I didn't see your note sooner! Yes, I've built a "SETH" style amp, got one sitting on my floor right now (though fitted with 6L6's not 2A3s). If you're going to use 2A3's, you only need to swing +/- 70v or so at the driver, so no need to give it a 460v supply. I don't know what driver tube you will use, but if you stay with something that has high transconductance like the design calls for, at say 150v on the plate, you don't need more than a 300v supply for sure - in fact, that would even run a 300b pretty well (Gordon from Wavelength Audio has advocated this for using a WE417a for 300Bs and I've built it that way, works great). As for the 6B4G's, I didn't have good luck with hum on them. This is related to the higher heater voltage and not using DC on the filaments. I'd recommend staying at 5v or less (that is, use a 2A3 or 300B). The Sovtek single plate 2A3 is a very nice tube, and not all that expensive. By the way, I had MQ do my EXo-173's w/some nickle lams and I really like the way it sounds. Not sure what the standard sounds like. Best of luck!

Subject: Re: Ping Steve Brown -- re: Seth(s)
Posted by [Skip Pack](#) on Mon, 17 Dec 2007 13:46:13 GMT
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Steve, Thanks for the reply. Too many sites these days, it's easy to miss something, somewhere. In any case, I was wanting to isolate the driver stage from the output stage, and since I have 2 220 VAC secondaries on the power transformers, I was originally thinking to put one bridge across one of the secondaries, and then another across both in series. I have since seen a discussion on AA that suggests that this would be catastrophic (though I don't quite see how). If I had the 400+ B+

for the driver, I would drop it with a large, hot resistor and maybe a choke to further isolate that stage. I suspect that simply using one secondary with a CLCLC for the output at full voltage and a choke loaded LCLC (maybe one more LC) for the driver would work as well or better and avoid the higher voltage complications. Skip

Subject: Re: Ping Steve Brown -- re: Seth(s)
Posted by [Steve Brown](#) on Mon, 17 Dec 2007 21:32:19 GMT
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Hmm.. not sure why you can't do what you proposed, either. Guess you could experiment with a couple filament transformers to see what happens... You could also consider stacked supplies, but that does not totally isolate either of them. I had a transformer custom wound one time that did have separate windings for each stage, plus bias supply. Turned out I way over spec'd it and it was mammoth, and cost me an unexpected fortune. BUT, it was very nice to have the separate supplies if for no other reason than you could work on one part of the amp without impacting the DC loading you'd already figured out for the other part. Since then, and FWIW, I've found I prefer to have things tied to the same supply for sonic reasons. For some reason it sounds better to me. Call me nuts. That includes L & R channels, too. Right now, for example, I'm running a PP EL84 amp that uses a differential driver. Both L & R channels have the same supply. Does it compress the soundstage? No, it's the widest soundstage I've ever heard on an amp - almost spooky in some respects. By the way, the soundstage on this amp is MUCH better (as is the bass) compared to my SETH. The SETH gives a narrower soundstage. I suspect if I played with the parafeed cap I could introduce some bass boost, but I've not done that yet.

Subject: Parafeed Cap?
Posted by [Skip Pack](#) on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 01:00:36 GMT
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I assume you mean the coupling cap before the autotransformer between stages, or are you playing with parafeed push pull?
