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Subject: chips and tubes

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 06 Dec 2004 16:32:49 GMT

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You're right Wayne, but why is it that the chips are acceptable to the SET guys? Audio Twilight Zone. They absolutely do sound better than sand amps.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 06 Dec 2004 20:06:53 GMT

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Maybe some see it as a minimalist approach? Maybe the fact that there is one physical device seems like fewer parts in the signal path to some?

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 06 Dec 2004 23:10:01 GMT

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Have you listened to them and if so what is your impression? See, I think building them into the Pi 2 box might be nice.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [roncla](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 03:07:50 GMT

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I would be careful about mounting a GC in the cab or even on it. Caps used on the P/S rails really dont like any kind of vibration.ron

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 06:41:31 GMT

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To tell the truth, one of my favorite receivers was a 1980 model Yamaha that used a single 80

watt chip for most of the amp circuit. I also have a bunch of chips that were used as repairs for car stereos and other stuff. Some of them sounded really nice as I recall but I haven't blown the dust off any of that stuff in a long time.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 11:50:37 GMT

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Anyway you could shock mount them?

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 12:36:19 GMT

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Wayne; I too have had chip based recievers including NAD and the old Yamaha cr series. My brother-in law has it still. I don't rememmberr them sounding as good as these little chip amps. I am going to ask him to let me try it again but I still don't understand why there would be this difference. Is it due to the construction of the chip; or different materials or implementation? I know it isn't my imagination because I still have the NAD and it most assuredly doesn't equal this little GT kit. What can it be? Shorter signal path? Thanks, J.R.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [hitsware](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 16:33:45 GMT

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>I don't rememmberr them sounding as good as these little chip amps.It may be due to the switches, tone controls, etc. usually included in the signal path of a reciever.....mike

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 19:14:37 GMT

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You think the switches would have that much of an impact? The Yamaha has a tone control defeat feature. So does the NAD.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes  
Posted by [hitsware](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 21:13:11 GMT  
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I know switches can have some impact (depending on quality, condition, etc.). Also there is all the wiring used to route the signal. These effects may be subtle, but are additive. Besides, I think that there is usually a preamp stage which is unneeded if your gain is fixed high enough with the chip itself.....mike

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 22:01:29 GMT  
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Could be anything. Could be the amp topology. Maybe the substrate. Might be the surrounding components. Might even be the music or the moods. When you compare 'em, please let us know. I remember the Yamaha receiver in the 1980's sounded really great. I was impressed with it in several ways. I don't know how it compares with some of the gear I have now, but it sure made

Professional Series drivers. To tell the truth, the inexpensive Harman Kardon HK 3470 receiver I picked up on Crutchfield a year ago sounds pretty good. I bought it to see how an entry level

watts per channel for this particular setup. That way I could compare tubes and solid state in the it uses a chip amp or discrete components, but more than likely, it's a chip. Maybe a National chip, just like the gainclones. I dunno. But it sounds pretty good; Suprising, really. Wayne

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 22:20:37 GMT  
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Well I agree to some extent but the GC sounds pretty good with the Foreplay as a pre-amp. I would put the sound ahead of the usual recievers.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes  
Posted by [hitsware](#) on Tue, 07 Dec 2004 23:14:11 GMT  
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Is the Foreplay a tube unit ?

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 08 Dec 2004 00:40:30 GMT

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Yes Bottlehead makes it. 12au7 tubes.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [hitsware](#) on Wed, 08 Dec 2004 13:48:58 GMT

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Yea. Here they have a thread about using a tube follower as a buffer to drive an inverting gainclone. Adds the 'tube magic' I guess. If I was going to use a tube though, I'd use it for the voltage gain and simply add a complimentary mosfet follower. 0 global feedback (which (to me)) makes for Mr. Groovysound.....mike

<http://www.ampchipdiy.com/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=2>

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2004 00:33:55 GMT

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I have not heard the buffered GC but I have heard another buffered SS amp. Does'nt make sense to me, Tube Sound is wrong, if your amp has Tube Sound, fix it. I have heard quite a few well designed tube amps and their characteristic sound is one of music. SS amps are too bright and lifeless for me. I do like the chips though; but honestly they too have a little sheen to them. It's just that they are so much fun. Run Mr. Groovysound by me again; have you used this configuration? The tube is a voltage gain stage ahead of the GC?

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [hitsware](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2004 01:57:51 GMT

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I haven't used a tube but do use a mosfet. A tube could be substituted for the 1st xsistor.....NO global feedback. Impossible with a power op amp.....mike

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2004 17:39:10 GMT  
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mike; I know op-amps use sometimes 100db of Global Feedback. But I was under the impression that GC's use some amount of GF also. Is that incorrect?

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Subject: Re: reposting schematic  
Posted by [hitsware](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2004 22:19:02 GMT  
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this time with more stable url.....

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes  
Posted by [hitsware](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2004 22:35:27 GMT  
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>I know op-amps use sometimes 100db of Global Feedback. >But I was under the impression that GC's use some amount >of GF also. Is that incorrect?Correctomundo. The chips used for GC's are in fact op-amps.Perhaps more correctly 'power op-amps'. This is the sametopology used in 99% of solid state amps (only the circuitis all on 1 'chip'). As much gain as possible is developed,affording massive feedback for low distortion specs.In fact so much gain that feedback must be used to definea reasonable operating condition.Fine and dandy. Some of them sound great. For my tastes though,amps with little or no feedback (and here I mean 'global' or'active' feedback where the output is fed back (as opposed to'degenerative' that simply limits the gain of a device)) havea truly more groovy sound. WAY more dynamic and open .... mike

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 10 Dec 2004 05:04:13 GMT  
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Sometimes I use open loop opamps to digitize an input signal. The gain is so high it swings to the rail upon getting any input at all.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [JLM](#) on Mon, 17 Jan 2005 15:45:43 GMT

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Glad to hear someone else thinks the same of the HK 3470. I bought mine factory reconditioned for \$160 shipped to use in a puny 2.1 HT system and it compares sound wise very well with my Rotel receiver that was \$700 (the tuner is even better). I'm sure the build quality doesn't compare, especially on the front panel controls.

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Subject: Re: chips and tubes

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 17 Jan 2005 16:23:34 GMT

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Ditto. That's what I use mine for, a little second home theater system. I originally intended it mostly as a demo for a low cost setup, and thought I'd mothball it when not being used for that purpose. But the truth is it probably gets more use than my primary home theater system. Partly that's because it's convenient and partly that's because the system sounds so good.

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