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Subject: Still bewildered by it all!  
Posted by [Howard](#) on Thu, 24 Mar 2005 09:33:25 GMT  
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Dear SET forum, Since I last wrote I have been searching around the internet for a good SE amp design. It is a very complex job. It is easy enough to find a circuit but how do you get going with gathering the right parts. For example a huge range of Darling amps can be seen at <http://www.diyparadise.com/Darling.html> All the builders seem so experienced; they all skip the building basics and just again generally show a circuit and the final product. But how will I get to learn about selecting and buying power supply parts, tag boards (I am used to a PCB) and building a chassis Can anyone direct me to a site that provides a step by step guide to building and parts selection? I am very interested but a bit bewildered by it all Howard PS The old amp above (VERDIK) was picked up near a bin 20 years ago, was left in a workshop and brought back to life last year. It now has a partner which I found in NZ (SPOOKY EH?)  
my audio stuff

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Subject: Re: Still bewildered by it all!  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 24 Mar 2005 17:12:49 GMT  
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What a cool old amp! Nice web pages too, by the way. I find little bits and pieces here and there. Some of the best information about components is available from parts manufacturers themselves. There are lots of documents scattered here and there that show the manufacturing process of specific components and why they chose that type. As for amp circuits, it's kind of the same thing. You'll find one source that is very informative about one or two topologies, because that's what they've focused on. But they won't have much to say about any of the others. You just have to root around.

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Subject: Now that you have it narrowed down.....  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 24 Mar 2005 20:36:59 GMT  
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Did you look at Pete Millet's site? This amp was recently written up in audioXpress and looks like a winner.  
<http://pmillett.addr.com/elinear.htm>

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Subject: Re: Now that you have it narrowed down.....  
Posted by [Howard](#) on Thu, 24 Mar 2005 21:06:02 GMT  
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Dear ColinThats exactly the sort of thingThanksHoward

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Subject: Re: Still bewildered by it all!  
Posted by [cheetah](#) on Fri, 25 Mar 2005 13:38:01 GMT  
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Howard,I would recommend 3 books to you. All available on the net.1) book by Morgan Jones (forget title)2) Tube amp cook book by Allen Wright (Vacuum state.com)3) Audio Reality by Bruce Rosenblitz (Transedent OTL fame)All 3 of the above are highly respected, have different points of view, discuss why they choose the parts they did.Have funJoe

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Subject: audioXpress article  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 25 Mar 2005 23:57:17 GMT  
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Is there any way you can get a copy of this article? Even if you decide on the Darling, it is worth reading. Between the article and his web page, this amp almost builds itself...Colin

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Subject: Re: audioXpress article  
Posted by [Howard](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 00:29:26 GMT  
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Dear Colin,I agree there is a lot of info here. I would like to buy most of the parts locally (Australia) if I can. Sorting that out may take a bit of time.My main concern, not surprisingly is the power supply end. Downunder we are running on 240V I have never heard a KT88 as far as I know. How would it compare with the KT66 with which I am fairly familiar?I think I will be going with this KT88 design because I think I would prefer 1-2 W extra power.Thanks for all your help. It would be good if it could build itself!Howard(Queensland)

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Subject: Morgan Jones

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Posted by [GarMan](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 01:38:38 GMT

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Morgan Jones has two books. One on Tube Amplifier and the other on Building Tube Amplifiers. If your not concerned about how an amp works and how to design your own, but just want to know about good building and testing techniques, get the Building Tube Amplifier book. Available from Amazon.

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Subject: Re: Still bewildered by it all!

Posted by [GarMan](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 01:51:17 GMT

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For any given design, you can either spend next to nothing or have to mortgage your home to get it built. A simple resistor can run you a couple of pennies or over \$10. Now multiply that by the number of resistors in a typical circuit and you can see how material costs can differ. What I'm trying to say is, if you're starting out, don't worry too much on the quality of parts. Breadboard the design on a piece of wood with the cheapest parts you can find and focus on getting the build correct (ie getting it to work with no hum). Make sure you like what you hear, THEN start swapping out parts with better quality components to fine tune it. If it sounds good with the cheap parts, quality components can make it even better. However, if the design sounds bad with the cheap parts, even the most expensive components can't help. Gar.

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Subject: Re: Still bewildered by it all!

Posted by [Howard](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 02:54:07 GMT

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Dear GarMan, Thanks for your good advice. I did spend a lot of time listening to resistors in the early nineties. At the time comparing Roderstein, Holco (whole copper) Welwyn and the expensive and very clinical (and I mean that in a good way!) Vishay. The passive controllers use them in key points. See picture above this shows some Vishay types I used to buy them from Sonic Frontiers in Canada Which in your opinion offer the best balance between sound quality and cost? Thanks Howard

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Subject: Re: audioXpress article

Posted by [PakProtector](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 01:02:13 GMT

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You can do it with KT66 or almost any power valve for that matter. I have built PP amps like this with 1619, HY69, HY1269, KT90, KT88, 6550, EL34, 6L6GA, 350B...It is a neat circuit for PP as well as SE. I took it up as PP and Pete took it up as SE. I named the circuit.regards,Douglas

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Subject: Re: Still bewildered by it all!

Posted by [GarMan](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 18:31:00 GMT

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Howard, unfortunately, I've been too cheap to systematically test the sound of various resistors and capacitors to give a meaningful report. I typically breadboard with surplus store parts (ie \$0.02 resistors, \$0.15 caps) to make sure everything works, there are no hums, and I like what I hear. I then build with the "cheap" boutique parts such as Holco resistors, Riken for grid stoppers, Mills for power resistors, JJ for power caps, Solens for non-coupling caps, and Auricaps for coupling caps. I find all these components give a large improvement over the surplus store parts. These parts are also the cheapest of boutique components. The next level represents a big price jump. I'm certain many of the higher grade brands could improve the sound even more, but I'm not convinced the improvement would be worth the additional costs for me.gar.

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Subject: and there's still cheaper...

Posted by [PakProtector](#) on Wed, 20 Apr 2005 00:31:35 GMT

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I have seen Auricap pricing, and have listened to several alternatives which are a distinct step up the ladder of my preferences. Keep in mind such choices are both personal and system dependant, and what works for my ears, may not work for yours.regards,Douglas

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