Subject: Boy, is this a dull forum...
Posted by SteveBrown on Tue, 14 Nov 2006 23:32:13 GMT
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Okay, now that I caught some attention I'll say, well, it is kind of dull. Where are the posts? What are you all working on? What's on the bench? Ideas? I wish I'd built.. ? what's up?But also, I have a question. On another forum I read a review of caps. I have long believed that no caps are good caps, but lets face it, sometimes they're needed. So how many, if any, folks have tried V-Caps? They were second rated in that review only to AN Silver caps. I ordered a (very expensive) pair, but have not received them yet. I'll let you know what I think, but in the mean time, anyone else with some experience?

Subject: Re: Boy, is this a dull forum...
Posted by gfederys on Wed, 15 Nov 2006 14:23:31 GMT
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Well, In response to your first question, after 2 years I'm FINALLY in the process of putting together my 2A3/300B SE amp science project. I did all the machining and woodworking on it and it's been sitting boxed up. Hopefully by Christmas, (can I say that here?), it'll be completed. Being more mechanically then electronically oriented, it's being more of a challenge then I expected. Luckily I have some freinds that are way better @ this then I am to help out. In response to your 2nd question, I've only listened to Solens and Hovlands in my PP amp and prefer the Hovlands by a long shot. I undestand there are way better out there for a lot more money. OK, time for a snooze.

Subject: Re: Boy, is this a dull forum...
Posted by SteveBrown on Wed, 15 Nov 2006 16:04:44 GMT
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So you're building an amp where you can switch the filiments and cathode R to allow swapping 2A3 and 300B? Sounds interesting. What kind of driver are you using?

Subject: Re: Boy, is this a dull forum...
Posted by gfederys on Wed, 15 Nov 2006 16:21:24 GMT
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WHAT, HUH, Hmmmm.... Sorry, musta dosed off. I decided to build the Angela/JE Labs 2A3

Simple. Then one engineer friend of mine looked @ the schematic and thought I should be able to run 300B's off of it by adding a Tamura filament transformer and a switch to go between parallel and series which indeed does change the filament voltage between 2.5v and 5v. It's starting out stock running the recommended 6SL7's but another friend suggests reworking it to use 6W6's. Don't forget, it should be able to play 45's, (NOT the early 60's discs), as well. I'm just an innocent pawn in their games.

Subject: Re: Boy, is this a dull forum...
Posted by SteveBrown on Thu, 16 Nov 2006 13:27:33 GMT
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Sounds interesting. And as you likely know, the 2A3 is a 15w tube, and the 300b is a 40w tube, so it isn't just heaters that need to change. If you slap a 300B in the 2A3 circuit, without altering the operating point for the 300b, you'll hear a difference (due to the diff tube), but you'll not really get any more power out. Also, the 300b, borrowing the 2A3's bias R may or may not be at a good operating point, you'd have to look at the plate curves to figure that out. I suspect it will run just fine, but may not be the best representation of what a 300B can do. Overall, sounds like you'll have fun. Keep us informed on the progress!

Subject: Re: Boy, is this a dull forum...
Posted by gfederys on Thu, 16 Nov 2006 14:26:05 GMT
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I kinda knew that. The main idea flash @ the time was to be able to run and listen to some 300B's I bought cheap. From everything I've been reading, most people prefer the 2A3 tube. If it sounds like the 300B will be a clear winner, I'll change parts to adjust for the 300B's. If I had a place to post some pictures, I would. I'll have to look into that. Thanx for the encouragement.

Subject: Another Way
Posted by Skip on Fri, 17 Nov 2006 18:31:33 GMT
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About six weeks ago I put Magnequest EXO-45 transformers and BCP-15 extralinear chokes (all M6 cores) in my standard Bottlehead Sex Amp. I also replaced the .1 ufd. interstage coupling cap with V-caps. Ithink I've got enough hours on it now, and it sounds wonderful on my Lowther Medallion IIs (15 ohm PM2Cs). Richer mids and some real bass, though it naturally doesn't go deep. My combination of mods made the cap change largely unobservable, of course, but the total result is sure there.I'm not about to spend the bucks it would take to replace the parafeedcap

(1 ufd.) with a V-cap. I'll try and Auricap or a motor run (if Ican find a 1 ufd. motor run) there in a few months.Skip

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Subject: Subject should be: About the V-Caps <nt>
Posted by Skip on Fri, 17 Nov 2006 18:33:42 GMT
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Subject: Re: Subject should be: About the V-Caps <nt>
Posted by SteveBrown on Fri, 17 Nov 2006 20:34:27 GMT
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Not sure why the 45 would not have bass. Mine sure does. Are you driving efficent speakers? On the parafeed cap, having heard the DIY Audio "Obligato's", I think that's a great way to go. I'd also suggest more like 3 -10uf for that cap.

Subject: Subject should be: About the V-Caps
Posted by Skip on Fri, 17 Nov 2006 21:02:20 GMT
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I'm fairly sure the amp has good bass, it does through phones. The Lowther Medallions run out around 60-70 hz or so with hintsbelow that. Might need a transconductance amp to push those driversmuch lower. I'll work on something with more watts as well. 2 wattswith a baffle step correction (line level before the amp) pushing upthe lows has its limits.Skip

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Subject: Re: Old dog learned a new trick
Posted by Bill Epstein on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 12:38:30 GMT
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Fried a resistor on the driver stage of the 45 amp the other day.Bad driver tube took it out. Or bad CCS mosfet took out the tube, or...Have had a problem with the turn-on surge of the B+. Even damaged the other channels mosfet.In looking over the problem and replacing the bad parts at the WSOTT meeting Saturday, Steve suggested implementing a switch on the B+. With a .01uF

2kV cap across the terminals.Last night I installed it. On the center tap connection to ground.Just a SPST 250 VAC, 10 amp rated toggle. Powered up and let the filaments warm up for a few minutes, then closed the switch. No flashes or crackles, which I had previously.

Subject: Re: Old dog learned a new trick
Posted by Shane on Wed, 06 Dec 2006 00:33:39 GMT
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Bill, have you ever seen anything like this used?
 Switch

Subject: Re: Old dog learned a new trick
Posted by SteveBrown on Fri, 08 Dec 2006 18:05:33 GMT
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That's a great approach and it's a good reason to get hold of some of those books, like the Radio Amature's Handbook (especially older ones). The only drawback here is that you'd have to have seperate filiment transformers. Probably not a big deal, but can be an unplanned addition to the chassis. I recently found, by the way, that Hammond makes some nice fil transformers with dual secondaries - for example, two x 2.5v windings (266M5). This makes it so you'd need fewer seperate fil tfr under the hood.

Subject: Well...
Posted by PakProtector on Fri, 05 Jan 2007 00:20:19 GMT
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It's after Christmas...is the amp done? Any fireworks? did it work the first time(if it did, you have got great skill!)? Got the 6W6 mod done? How does it sound?heh-heh-heh...

Subject: Re: Well...
Posted by gfederys on Mon, 08 Jan 2007 13:49:21 GMT
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WOW there buddy, you sure are pushy for an answer! The 300B thing was a bust. The Tamura

2.5v-5v transformer did not have enough cahuna's to drive the 2A3's let alone the 300B's. I put the original Hammond 166L2's I bought in and it worked right out of the box as a 2A3. After some resistor tweaking and replacing the 6SL7 drivers with 6EM7's, the darn thing REALLY sounds nice! It isn't as good as my friends $5k P-25 amp but still very musical. As far as my skillset, if it wasn't for the help of a close friend, they probably would have found my charred, half parakeet-eaten body in the condo after the spring thaw. I really appreciated his patience, help, and insight with my project. I returned the favor by preventing his electrocution.

Subject: Re: Old dog learned a new trick
Posted by randle on Sun, 08 Apr 2007 02:59:38 GMT
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No flashes and or cackles or actually good, I'm sure you know this already.But you never said if it worked or not yet.
