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Subject: KT120 and KT150 tubes not up to spec  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2017 21:27:05 GMT

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Hi everyone one of my worst fears (others no doubt share it) seems to be happening. Tungsol KT120s are red plating well below their rated dissipation. Seems like at 60-70%. Not good for class A amps. KT150s are being received that are just plain defective. A UK licensee of some of my designs has reported the problems starting about 4 months ago and now it is a thread on diyaudio.com (see the link).

<http://www.diyaudio.com/forums/tubes-valves/303273-anyone-out-there-kt150.html#post4975833>

My suggestion is that if you get any tubes that red plate or just don't seem right...send them back until you get good ones. Maybe the suppliers will get the word and not accept seconds from the factory and QC will improve. There is always hope.

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Subject: Re: KT120 and KT150 tubes not up to spec  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2017 15:38:41 GMT

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I hate this, Bruce. But I feared it might happen too.

I think it's a two-fold problem. One problem is the materials needed. Some aren't as readily available, and are expensive. So I would expect the temptation to substitute for cheaper materials might come into play. And a second problem is modern tube manufacturers aren't as likely to even try to be as concerned with quality as they were decades earlier. Their market is smaller, and I think the companies themselves are smaller. I have a hunch they feel less "visible" and more likely to cut corners.

Tube loving audiophiles will naturally suggest NOS tubes. That's awesome where you can find them. But new equipment manufacturers need to be able to find consistent quality new production tubes. So I'm with you on this: I hope the current tube manufacturers understand that they are visible, and that their products are used by sophisticated customers. They can't slack on quality without losing their place in the market.

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Subject: Re: KT120 and KT150 tubes not up to spec  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sat, 11 Feb 2017 22:47:49 GMT

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Hi, I got confirmation from a Rogue Audio dealer that they have run into the problem as well.

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