
Subject: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2018 13:42:00 GMT
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Here we go again!

<https://parttimeaudiophile.com/2018/01/21/western-electric-announce-300b-to-re-enter-production-launch-of-new-amplifier/amp/>

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2018 17:06:36 GMT
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Wow! How cool! Thanks for the heads-up!

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2018 21:16:22 GMT
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Perhaps, Where will they actually be made and really by whom. The original fabricating gear is probably long gone as are the original materials the tubes were made from. I have heard stuff like this before and usually it doesn't live up the promises. But then in this case I must state that I am not fond of the directly heated triode magic that some hear. I figure that highish levels of second harmonic distortion (that some say sound nice) is still distortion and to be avoided.

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2018 21:32:57 GMT
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Yup.

They're really hyping it up, and we know the mystique and hype that comes with the WE's.

Here is one of the claims about the tooling and materials-

Quote- "The current tube enjoys a vacuum that is at least two decades lower (2×10^{-6}) Torr than previous runs due to the employment of turbomolecular vacuum pumps, resulting in longer life. Although the tube is newly produced, the filamentary cathode core material is from the original WE inventory derived from a 1963 melt from the Western Electric Hawthorne Works in Chicago. The tooling used in the manufacture of WE 300-Bs is original equipment, some going back as far

as 1943."

<http://www.westernelectric.com/products/300b.html>

Nice cherry wood box, and to describe the highs as sounding "transparent, lovely, sweet, burnished and beautifully seductive"?

Burnished

I guess I shouldn't judge though, as I've never owned a pair.

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Sat, 08 Sep 2018 19:33:22 GMT
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I've been getting updates from WE from time to time...about their new 300B tube.

Last week was the most recent one -

" As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the return of the WE 300B, we're reporting a not too unexpected production delay.

This past January, Western Electric was proud to announce first availability of the new tubes for September 1. But, we could not have foreseen exactly how much time and attention each unique and valuable piece of the assembly line would need. It's a complex, magical process, bringing together old tech and 21st-century standards. As we continue this transition, run materials inventory, and install new machinery, we must also clean and re-clean nearly one acre of floor space so it is ready to safely handle the ultra-pure materials inside each 300B. After these steps are completed we will move on to a highly regimented testing stage. Only then can we deliver product with confidence.

Please note that we are adjusting our September 2018 deadline to December 2018. We'll continue providing updates and begin taking pre-orders soon.

Delivering the promise of Western Electric quality takes time--time we hope you'll continue sharing with us.

Thank you

WE."

"magical process" lol!
WE 300b fans will have to wait.

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2019 16:55:37 GMT

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Guy's...guy's, guy's. If you can't wait for the new ones. Here's an even more heavenly deal to be had. A matched set of new old stock, (from the 1930's), at a most reasonable understandably priced amount of \$19995.00. Free shipping over \$99*. There you go, step right up.
<https://www.tubedepot.com/products/nos-western-electric-engraved-base-300b-black-plate-late-1930-s-matched-pair>

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2019 22:37:52 GMT

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I believe that pair has been available for about a year now.

The new WE 300b tubes are about 1500. a pair...

But really, if you have the means for a 20,000. pair of vintage WE's, more power to you...

I would not spend my money that way, unless of course it was a drop in the bucket...

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2019 16:19:32 GMT

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Maybe the consumers of 1.2 million speakers, (under home theater), might have a 300b amp to lavish this absurd pair of vacuum tubes on.

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2019 19:18:52 GMT

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I don't know the folks at TubeDepot.com but I bought a few tubes from them back before I really got to know Aki at TubesForAmps.com. Now I buy all my tubes from Aki, 'cause I've sort of gotten to know him and trust him.

My guess is someone found those WE tubes in an estate sale of some kind. That's how ALL the "NOS" stuff comes around. Some guy has a bunch of tubes in his attic and when he dies, if his heirs don't throw it all away as "obsolete junk," it finds its way into an estate sale. Sometimes it's from an old repair shop, and sometimes it's just personal stash. But usually the bigger finds are from a long-defunct hifi shop or something like that.

So the folks at TubeDepot.com were understandably excited when they found this pair of tubes. When they list them for \$20K, in my mind, it's like setting the price at a "jillion dollars." It's not like they expect to ever sell them, although if someone offered the money they'd take it. And they would probably have "sellers remorse" if they did, because they are probably kind of emotionally attached to these rare tubes. It's like Smeagol's "precious" ring. They aren't trying to sell them; They are just showing off. I kind of get that.

Ironically, I'll bet a "jillion dollars" that they got 'em for next to nothing. I wouldn't be surprised if they paid a hundred bucks for a big pile of tubes in their original cardboard boxes, and that pair of tubes was in the pile. I've bought lots like that a few times - piles of hundreds of tubes - and found some pretty sweet old tubes in the pile. Lots of 45s and 2A3s, and of course a ton of rectifiers and random pentodes and stuff like that.

So anyway, I agree with you guys that 20-grand for a pair of light-bulbs is a bit steep, and could be seen as greedy, arrogant or crazy. But I think it's more like an unrealistic emotional attachment. I have some nutso emotional attachments like that to some of my stuff too. And a few of my rare things, I wouldn't sell for a "million bucks." :roll:

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2019 22:30:14 GMT
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I hadn't thought of it that way, Wayne.
"Bragging rights".

I found an Elvis 1977 "moody blues" LP "yellow". for 2G's
Could the same be said of this-?

Needless to say, I love the King and his TCB band, but this album in particular, for its recording quality (70's of course)
But 2G's??

I guess I'll keep looking lol. Meanwhile, I have the CD.

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2019 16:05:52 GMT
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I think collectors of things have a mindset much more akin to gamblers than consumer minded people. And are thus prone more to outrageous outlay's of income just to get their "fix". Like a gambler's, just one more play. TubeDepot can sit on these baubles for as long as they want for

maybe, just maybe, some needy collector has to have this rarity. Or, they'll put them up for auction some day if no one bites. Either way, who the hell would collect these things? But, people do. For my amps, each using 16 output tubes, (6c19pi) I've had to shop far away, to the mother country, the Russian Federation to get reasonably priced replacements. Fortunately, the amps do not devour output tubes like other otl designs. I'm still on the original tube set.

Subject: Re: Western Electric 80th anniversary "300B" tube

Posted by [positron](#) on Fri, 13 Aug 2021 05:10:54 GMT

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gofar99 wrote on Tue, 23 January 2018 15:16 Perhaps, Where will they actually be made and really by whom. The original fabricating gear is probably long gone as are the original materials the tubes were made from. I have heard stuff like this before and usually it doesn't live up to the promises. But then in this case I must state that I am not fond of the directly heated triode magic that some hear. I figure that highish levels of second harmonic distortion (that some say sound nice) is still distortion and to be avoided.

I agree Go.

Below for general consumption. I do not wish to step on anyone's feet, but with so much confusion on other forums, I wish only to present the facts. I do not wish to change anyone's mind.

So much mis information exists concerning a variety of audio subjects. For instance, the intermodulation distortion (IMD) is roughly 3 times the harmonic distortion measurement. Attached below are data from Eimac of any tube following the 3/2 power law, and 300b distortion figures under varying condition.

One must also consider previous stages as the distortion products combine with other stages, including the output stage, to produce higher orders of distortion. For instance, 2nd of one stage will combine with 3rd of another stage to produce 6th order, 3rd will combine with 3rd to produce 9th order etc etc.

The higher the order, the easier to perceive. (RCA Radiotron Designers Handbook, 26 engineers, 1960, Olson's work.)

As mentioned above, I try to present honest and factual information. Knowledge is power and helps in one's decision making.

(Caveat: I retired some 9 years ago and do not manufacture any electronic components, except the "V" interconnect cable.)

cheers

pos

File Attachments

- 1) [300b1 PO vs Distortion.jpg](#), downloaded 390 times
 - 2) [Eimac IMD Products vs Bias .jpg](#), downloaded 341 times
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