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Subject: Hybrid amps

Posted by [musicluvr](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2019 15:55:03 GMT

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Do you know if hybrid amps last longer? Have they typically produced better sound when compared to other amps? It seems like buying a hybrid would be the way to go as you'd get the best of both worlds.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2019 18:01:17 GMT

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I'd say, no and no. Great designs can be had with or without the hybrid approach. Which I think is to make something with the traits of one format, say, tube impressed upon a solid state design. Reliability is part of any honest designer's forethought. With that foundation, the devil in the details can be expressed with creativity. Van Alstine is suppose to have fine hybrid amplifiers. Don't know if they can be said to be superior in sound and reliability to many other non-hybrid designs though. But I bet they have their follower's that would swear by them.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [Strum Drum](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2019 22:24:34 GMT

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I think it's hard for hybrids to actually produce the best of both worlds - rich tube sound with the signal processing and the reliability of a digital amp. Hybrids tend to be cheaper and they aren't terrible or anything. I've used a model by VOX and another by Orange with my guitar. They were both fine, but nothing spectacular.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sun, 10 Feb 2019 22:24:49 GMT

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Hi, Hybrids can excel in some areas. Where there is the need for a lot of gain and low noise solid state devices do very well. However, how they sound may not be to everyone's liking. If you want a warmer sound, often caused by the presence of even harmonics then tubes will probably sound better to you. A hybrid with a high gain front end feeding tube output circuitry can be very nice. It depends on the design and execution. If all the gear has a cathode follower output (like many of the budget hybrids seem to do) then it is not likely to make any difference.

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Wed, 12 Feb 2020 23:17:12 GMT

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The biggest problem with hybrid amps is the emotional conflict you would feel in deciding whether to post messages in Silicon Valley or in Thermionic Emissions. :lol:

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Subject: Re: Hybrid amps

Posted by [AudioFred](#) on Wed, 12 Feb 2020 23:40:10 GMT

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I do understand McIntosh doesn't make the best amp for the money, but the name McIntosh is in the same league as Harley Davidson and Corvette - an American classic. I really like the looks of this one. No I'm not considering spending this kind of money. :lol:

<https://www.mcintoshlabs.com/products/new-products/MA352>

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