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Subject: TAD KT88

Posted by [positron](#) on Fri, 04 Jul 2025 03:06:13 GMT

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Has anyone heard or have info concerning the TAD KT88? German manufactured or just tested for specs?

Cheers

pos

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2025 02:13:50 GMT

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Hi Pos, no but their preamp tubes (7025) are rather nice.

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88

Posted by [positron](#) on Tue, 08 Jul 2025 23:50:13 GMT

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I just found 2 sites that says TAD is sourced in China. No go for me, at least for now.

I wish there was some place besides russia, china, and slovakia. Sophia might be one, but expensive tubes.

cheers

pos

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88

Posted by [positron](#) on Wed, 16 Jul 2025 19:23:48 GMT

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Got to audition a used pair of reissue Mullard KT88s and I think I will order some new and compare to the reissue Tung Sol 6550s.

We may have a superior tube.

pos

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88

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Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 16 Jul 2025 22:11:10 GMT

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Oh wow, let me know what you think! I may have to buy a pair and check 'em out for myself!

I have a pair of original Tung Sol 6550 tubes. Not NOS 'cause I use 'em from time to time. But I treat them like they are precious family China. Not for use every day. Not even for every Christmas. Only for Christmas' when royalty visits. LOL!

And I have a bunch of Mullard 12AX7 tubes, which I have found that I like a lot. So I'd be happy to try Mullard KT88s. Not sure how I missed those before now. Somehow, I looked right passed 'em, I guess.

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88

Posted by [positron](#) on Fri, 18 Jul 2025 00:19:33 GMT

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Wayne Parham wrote on Wed, 16 July 2025 17:11

Oh wow, let me know what you think! I may have to buy a pair and check 'em out for myself!

I have a pair of original Tung Sol 6550 tubes. Not NOS 'cause I use 'em from time to time. But I treat them like they are precious family China. Not for use every day. Not even for every Christmas. Only for Christmas' when royalty visits. LOL!

And I have a bunch of Mullard 12AX7 tubes, which I have found that I like a lot. So I'd be happy to try Mullard KT88s. Not sure how I missed those before now. Somehow, I looked right passed 'em, I guess.

Will do Wayne. A friend had a used pair of 6 year old reissue Mullard KT88s and they do spark my interest. Auditioned and the bass was less but tight, maybe too tight, but then the M pair are somewhat used.

I can always tweak my monoblocks to increase bass (accuracy/naturalness) if the new ones are a little light.

The 1,000 hour reissue Tung Sol 6550s had the same idle cathode current as the other quad new TS in the boxes, was impressed, but then one of the used TS started arcing with only ~440 p to k volts, 70 ma.

Besides that the TS side getters were pretty much used up, while the used M had virtually no side getter deterioration.

Will be a little time to test, get some hours, but will report back Wayne.

cheers

pos

I just found a couple of selections from Anna Lapwood, Prince Albert Hall, London. Had forgotten how majestic a pipe organ can sound. The first is a cover of the Da Vinci Code.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HHtulwmk6U>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WEY2A5MiWE&list=RD0WEY2A5MiWE&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WEY2A5MiWE&list=RD0WEY2A5MiWE&start_radio=1)

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 18 Jul 2025 12:59:03 GMT

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Very cool, thanks!

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88

Posted by [positron](#) on Mon, 28 Jul 2025 00:48:38 GMT

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Wayne Parham wrote on Fri, 18 July 2025 07:59

Very cool, thanks!

Your welcome Wayne.

Well, I have received and some 17 hours on the quad, matched by TubeDepot located in Memphis. I measured the idle current and found that the 4 tubes were matched to within 1ma difference. Actually 0,75ma. (I am not affiliated in any way with TubeDepot.)

Wayne, it is difficult to describe the sonic change due to dealing with realism, live sound.

The new Mullard KT88s were clearly superior to the new TS 6550s and other output tubes I have tried, in just about every respect. I had a disappearing system for decades, then realism some couple of decades, one could be satisfied with,, until,, one auditioned more real, live. I think we all do that in our systems. That presents a question.

When is one bumping against the recording quality vs how much is lack of playback quality.

Poor quality parts, especially electrolytic capacitors cause masking problems. Friends over verified what I was perceiving.

Don't mean to sound conceited, but friends and I perceive 1 part in 4 million consistently. This is the result of using accurate polypropylene decoupling capacitors from dac, phono stage srouces, through to speaker crossover. Had no idea it would come to this when starting back in 1980.

Friends and I can bypass a 47ufd Mundorf with a 12pf in the speaker crossover and way too bright. I am currently using a series notch filter, 6.5khz across the full range driver. In series with the CL filter am using a 3.3 megohm resistor, 3 meg sounds too full and 4 megs sounds too lean.

The Mullard produce Cleaner sounding, crisper/attacks, more natural bass, venue is more realistic, spaciousness increased.

With the above said, typical systems with electrolytic capacitors may not notice that much difference, between the reissue Tung Sol 6550s and reissue Mullard KT88s. It will depend upon the system.

The new Mullard KT88s are now the standard for me.

If one gets a chance, a good read is a 2 part article "Picking Capacitors" by Walter Jung and Richard Marsh.

I hope I have not come across as arrogant. The info is the result of decades of lab work/research.

Cheers

pos

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 28 Jul 2025 13:43:47 GMT  
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Thanks for the review on the Mullard KT88 tubes! I think I'll get a pair and give 'em a listen!

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88, Mullard  
Posted by [positron](#) on Mon, 28 Jul 2025 23:59:21 GMT

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Wayne Parham wrote on Mon, 28 July 2025 08:43

Thanks for the review on the Mullard KT88 tubes! I think I'll get a pair and give 'em a listen!

Before you do Wayne, I just compared the new Mullards to the Winged C KT88s for a more complete review.

I like the Mullards better.

The WC KT88s are softer sounding, which is probably better for many.

The Mullard KT88s have a cleaner, sharper leading edge, midrange that is not as soft sounding, and has taught bass compared to other tubes, so conducive toward live sound,

but, if one does not use large enough coupling and decoupling capacitors in their preamps and amps, the sound may, probably will, sound lean, appearing to lack bottom end.

I use 2uf coupling caps in my 2 stage monoblocks and 6ufd output caps set with 22k ohm impedance (including amp's input impedance (Z) as my output capacitors in my preamplifier as an initial reference point to see how I dealt with the lower frequencies.

Of course the decoupling capacitors affect the low frequency response as well.

Cheers

pos

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88, Mullard

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 12 Aug 2025 19:14:02 GMT

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I got a pair of Mullard KT88 tubes today. Soon, I'll swap 'em out on my Audio Note Kit 2 and give 'em a few weeks listening time. Then I'll report back.

I also noticed on another thread that pos was asking about quiescent current in the Audio Note amp. I'll try to remember to open up the bottom, power it up and measure the voltage across the cathode resistors to know the current.

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Subject: Re: TAD KT88, Mullard

Posted by [positron](#) on Thu, 14 Aug 2025 03:42:41 GMT

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Wayne Parham wrote on Tue, 12 August 2025 14:14

I got a pair of Mullard KT88 tubes today. Soon, I'll swap 'em out on my Audio Note Kit 2 and give 'em a few weeks listening time. Then I'll report back.

I also noticed on another thread that pos was asking about quiescent current in the Audio Note amp. I'll try to remember to open up the bottom, power it up and measure the voltage across the cathode resistors to know the current.

Looking forward to your research and findings Wayne.

cheers

pos

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