
Subject: EF 86

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 18 Nov 2005 18:05:50 GMT

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What is good to do with that tube; also 6A4's? Any ideas?

Subject: Re: EF 86

Posted by [PakProtector](#) on Fri, 18 Nov 2005 19:32:09 GMT

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It is a good amplifier pentode. Quite similar to the 6SJ7 in terms of electrical properties. As to sonics, probably quite circuit dependant, no? Alternate designations are the 6267 and Z729 Often used as the first stage in the Mullard amp. EF86>>{twin triode LTP}>>PP finals. Direct coupled usually so as to use an acceptable tail resistor in the phase splitter. The Eico HF50 went EF86>6SN7>EL34 to a nice Chicago OPTx. cheers, Douglas

Subject: Re: EF 86

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 18 Nov 2005 21:30:31 GMT

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Thanks Douglas; I have some available along with some other triode and dual triodes. There's a music place clearing out their back tube lot here but a lot of the types I don't recognise. Those are two I am familiar with and was just wondering whether to pick them up pretty cheap.

Subject: Re: EF 86

Posted by [PakProtector](#) on Fri, 18 Nov 2005 22:39:23 GMT

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There's lots of cool tubes worth at least \$1 each. Damper diodes, twin and single triodes. That 6A4 looks like a cool driver tube actually. I'll try those if I can find some. Can you say, all DH E-Linear? Lots of stuff is worth keeping for experimenting with. I wish I were with you to go through that stack. cheers, Douglas

Subject: Re: EF 86

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 19 Nov 2005 12:58:42 GMT

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Thanks; I gotta be carefull or they will become suspicious and start looking on E-Bay or something and then thinking they have solid gold there.

Subject: Re: EF 86

Posted by [Damir](#) on Sat, 19 Nov 2005 18:04:06 GMT

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EF86 is becoming rare and expensive, especially "noble" brands, like Telefunken, Mullard, etc. It is not used just in vintage audio (Quad II, for example), but in guitar amps (Vox AC15, for example). Friend of mine went through many brands for his "Matchless DC30", and eventually settled down with TFK EF806S - good, but costly...

Subject: Re: EF 86

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 19 Nov 2005 19:01:18 GMT

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Thanks D; I'll look for those.

Subject: Strategy

Posted by [PakProtector](#) on Sat, 19 Nov 2005 20:56:08 GMT

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Hey-Hey!!!, You might go and hunt up some inexpensive tubes. Something like a 12AX4. That way, when/if they go looking, it will come up as a cheap-O. You might want to do this more than once, while you make a mental and more complete inventory of the cache. Also consider that you are consuming large quantity of profit by sorting the tubes for the ones you want. Unsorted selections from TV shops are rarely worth a dollar each. If you pick out a few good ones, you have spent time doing so... Proceed with caution and care, and above all, leave nothing useful behind when you are through. cheers, Douglas

Subject: Re: Strategy
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 19 Nov 2005 21:41:34 GMT
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Clever; very clever! Now why didn't I think of that? Thanks; I'll keep you posted.

Subject: Re: EF 86
Posted by [2wo](#) on Sun, 20 Nov 2005 02:13:42 GMT
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Hi M, the EF86 can be a very useful tube. When I converted my JE labs 300b to a WE 91 type I had to decide between the ef and the 6js7. Good ef86's were not cheap, in the end the 6js7 would fill the empty octal hole with no fuss and I did score some very nice old, old, stock glass 6js7. So there I went. Get them if you can, contrary to popular opinion, pentodes are not evil. If you are not inclined to use them as an input stage. Should you ever be inclined to use a Gary Pimm pentode CCS, your good to go... John

Subject: Re: EF 86
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 20 Nov 2005 02:48:07 GMT
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Thanks John. I am grabbing what I can thanks to everyone's helpful hints.

Subject: Re: EF 86
Posted by [MQracing](#) on Mon, 21 Nov 2005 05:00:55 GMT
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Hi Manualblock: some of the vintage manufactured EF86's were prized for their low microphony and low noise. They were often used in microphones and mic pre's for this reason... plus you could get good gain from this tube. As Doug pointed out... this tube was used in many vintage designs as a voltage amplifier. If you can get them cheap and they are of (especially) European manufacture... get 'em. Even if you don't want or choose not to use them yourself... they go for pretty good bucks (check eBay for sales histories) and there is still plenty of demand for these guys. Best of, msl

Subject: Re: EF 86
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 22 Nov 2005 19:15:44 GMT
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Thanks Mike; Will do.
