Subject: But I'm still on step 9...
Posted by Forty2wo on Tue, 23 May 2006 03:35:03 GMT
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I have an implementation of the D3a running now. I used a honking big anode choke in place of the CCS and am currently running the cathodes unbypassed .While I was under the hood. I retaped the B+ to give me 380v on the plate of the 300b at 70ma. I had been meaning to try a lower current, at the suggestion of several who thought it might help get the sound I am looking for. In any case it was the easy way to get the D3a plate to a good starting point 160v on the plate at 8ma. I ran a few rough test, I will post them a little later.As to the sound. They are more dynamic, which I thought was the chief failing of the past reiterations of these amps. Although maybe a bit forward. Need to let things run a bit.I had started a post, more of a story really, on these amps. How they started what they've been and what I have been looking for from them. If anyone is interested I will finish it. I am a two finger typist so these things take time…John

Subject: Re: But I'm still on step 9...
Posted by Damir on Tue, 23 May 2006 12:13:59 GMT
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Hey, I`m interested - it`s a DRD amp, yes? If you can find a pair, try E180F, too - it seems to me that D3a "sounds" a little more "raw/rough", although very similar like E180F. (In my application/system and with just a few tubes I tried:-)).E186F is a low michrophony/noise version of E180F - didn`t try it yet.Unbypassed cathode (although I use CCS+low imp. out) sounds to me somehow "flat, warm, soft, rolled off, undynamic"... And various caps bypasses have their own "sounds" - currently experimenting with this.And one more thing just remembered - it`s a better to stay away from 0V bias "border"; according to the M. Jones, significant grid-current flows when Ugk < -1,1V - distortion on signal peaks. I tried various OPs, from -1,7V to -2,5V and "higher" bias sounds better to me, but it`s sometimes not easy - the new D3a tubes I get have Ua>260V when Ugk=-2,4V! Out of specs (about 217V with -2,4V/11mA OP), but it`s a common with those high-gm tubes, where fraction of the Ugk volts means tens of Ua volts change with constant Ia.C3g is interesting, too - but "softer" then both E180F and D3a - good for some music, bad for the other... Anyway, those are my "listening tests results" for now, I`m glad to hear other experiences with these tubes...

Subject: Re: But I'm still on step 9...
Posted by Forty2wo on Mon, 29 May 2006 19:42:34 GMT
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Hi Damir, No the DRD amps are a different project. These are my former WE91 with 6sj7 front

ends. They sounded very good, terrific bass and very smooth. They just lacked a sense of dynamics that I could get even with my 1.5 watt DRD45's With D3a installed the sound is a bit forward or bright, but not harsh and I seem to have lost some of my bass. I have the D3a biased at 1.9V at 155V at the plate. For a calculated 8.1ma As usual I have made the mistake of changing more than one thing at a time. These are not breadboards and require some effort to 'work under the hood' so wile I was in there I retaped for a lower B+ Moving forward, I may try to raise the current either go back to the higher B+ or try to scare up the appropriate PS dropping resistor. (How come I never have the one I need on hand?)I do have a pair of 6688a's on order (closest I could find to the E180F from a US source, with out looking too hard.)…John

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Subject: Re: But I'm still on step 9...
Posted by Damir on Tue, 30 May 2006 11:52:05 GMT
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Try a little "higher" OP, about 200V/-2,3V/8mA. Try to bypass the cathode with good cap, 100µF or more. I`d try rechargerable battery and/or diode bias (LED+1N4148 = 2,2...2,3V), or maybe LED+resistor?I tried two LED-biased C3g - better, IMO, then any RC combination I tried.
