

K&Q Sound Genesis Amplifier Technologies

K&Q Sound Genesis Model 2 amplifier is a low power single ended triode (SET) amplifier, running in class A1 with no negative feedback. It is voiced for our Model 1 Full Range Monitor.

The direct signal path is simple yet unique, with three transformers, two 300B triodes and wires.

With its all transformer coupling, pure DHT configuration, the Model 2 offers a very involving sound and can reproduce unique harmonics and tones.

DHT sound

DHT tubes, like the 300B, offer low distortions relative to all other tubes. They are linear amplification devices and are highly prized among tube audiophiles for their clear sound, vivid presence and natural tones.

The 300B is a long life power tube, perhaps the best all around sounding DHT for SET amplifiers. It suits any type of music, from large symphonic orchestra to solo vocal performance. Western Electric also designed the 300B for a very long operating life, 27 years when we listen to music every day for 4 hours. Last, excellent sounding 300B tubes are still available from Western Electric, Emission Labs, Full Music, Sophia Electric, etc.

300B driver

In the Model 2, both driver and output stages use the same direct heated triode (DHT) 300B tube. This is a rare tube arrangement.

A driver tube is usually called upon to provide a lot of power to the output tube in order to reproduce accurately music dynamics. A 300B power tube used as a driver tube will deliver that large voltage swing and current to the output tube.

Interstage transformer coupling

A transformer is the most efficient method to couple the signal between two amplification stages. An interstage transformer presents the driver tube with an optimum load, enabling it to operate in its linear range, and allowing the tones and harmonics of the driver tube to shine

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through.

Interstage transformers were used in tube amplifiers since the early 20th century, but they are rarely offered commercially. A good transformer is more expensive than a capacitor. In addition, having a high quality excellent sounding transformer is critical in transformer coupling. However, only a handful companies can make excellent transformers. In the Model 2 amplifier, we use transformers from Lundahl and Electra Pint.

Line level input transformer

Many legendary recordings, from Mercury Living Presence, RCA “shaded dog”, or Everest for example, were made using tube recording equipment with transformers in the signal path. Using transformer coupling is in fact the standard in studio recording equipment. Line level input transformers are found in most studios. An inherent advantage of input transformer is the excellent rejection of noise from polluters within the home like TV, DVD players, etc.

An input transformer works best with a low output impedance high level source such as the analog outputs of a digital to analog (DAC) converter or a CD changer. To allow owners to directly connect their CD player to the Model 2, the amplifier has built in volume controls.

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