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From: Tim David (timw.david@amd.com)

Date: 3/2/2001 10:35 PM

Subject: Wierd noise

Maybe someone has seen this and could help.

I've been restore my 1965 vibrochamp for the first time in 35 years (I've actually owned the amp for 6 years but I got in original condition). The amp was getting really tired.

I've put new tubes, speaker, power resistors, and bypass caps in. For the first 2 weeks the amp sounded great. But now the amp has this wierd noise that's hard to describe. When I play a note there is a buzz or ugly tone on top of the regular note. The amp is only at 3 or 4 on volume. All my voltages check out OK. Max output volume doesn't appear to have lowered. Maybe just a little bit.

Reading the Geo amp debug site it mentions coupling caps as the possible problem. Anyone else have so ideas?

I just bought some orange drop caps and I'm going to install them tonight since this is a pretty inexpensive fix. However I was also wondering about a possible problem with the filter caps or maybe the OT? Someone else also mentioned possible filter cap problem. They look fine and the amp doesn't hum at all. Heck, I've never had a quieter sounded tube amp. One thing against the coupling cap problem theory is someone said if they were bad, my pots would be scratchy. They're not, they're whisper quiet.

Any ideas?

Tim David

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From: Jim R (guittybox@yahoo.com)

Date: 3/3/2001 12:15 AM

Subject: Re: Wierd noise

I have a SF champ that was OK until I plugged in a Les Paul and turned it up to 10. Then there was a fuzziness on each note and they died off real quick. Turned out to be speaker rub. Also blew out the bypass cap on the power tube. New cap didn't fix it. Speaker didn't really sound

blown tho'. Try it with a different speaker. Jim

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From: Trace (voodooamps@aol.com)

Date: 3/5/2001 5:18 PM

Subject: Jason...Facts on reforming caps please(?)

I think we a moving away from the Competent Tech/Engineering Mentality and moving in the direction of Sixth Grade Mentality.

If I understand this correctly you are accusing other techs here of resorting to a "6th Grade Mentality." Allow me to quote just a few of your many eloquent words on this thread alone.

I like them to understand that I don't F@ Around

Yeungling Lager(Pennsylvania Pisswater beats Colorado Coors!).

20+ years of experience gets angry and insulted at my opinion.

I will also vehemently suggest that others also use them in place of your apparently substandard recommendations. At face value, that is an insult.

Graywater, Take the skirt off!

If it came down to the wire, I bet they would cower in shame as opposed to having a pair when confronted.

I am thinking a lot lately about whether I really want to get into dealing with HyperEgotistical Musicians for a living. I prefer the "I Have 30+ Years In Construction!" crowd. At least these folks don't cry at the keyboard.

HaHa. I love a good Witch Trial.

I could go on but I think these few statements here pretty much display what kind of person you are. Trying to say you're above the 6th grade mentality is pretty foolish considering your statements in this thread alone.

If this is what the WWW is all about(smartass comments/0% thought/"Witch

Trials"/inflated egos), count me out.

Hmmm, I guess we could simply take a look at your words that I just quoted to discover the truth about who's being a smartass. People who often times say one thing and then take the opposite stance are usually referred to as one of two things 1.) A hypocrite and/or 2.) A liar.

Of course this isn't meant as an insult but factually this is what people are called who display the type of behavior that you are obviously showing here in your posts.

I came to AMPAGE because I can converse with others about my favorite subject on the Planet. I am beginning to think that it is a haven for "Bullies" who, if they knew me personally, may find it wise to think twice before making editorial comments.

If in fact you are referring to your amp expertise then please by all means include some facts that back up your statement about reforming caps instead of resorting to 6th grade mentality (as you so artfully worded it).

Posting all over the web about how "right" you are in your opinion does not validate your statement(s). If you have proof or hard facts then please present them, other wise your outspoken "opinions" might be better appreciated at another forum.

Feel free to "bully" others, I can't and won't be. Usually, in my Life, I call the shots.

Somehow I'm sure you do call the shots in your life although I haven't the slightest idea what this has to do with forming caps let alone the facts that would support your statement(s). If you are trying to get "respect" in some way or another then this is hardly the way to go about it.

People do not respect smartass' or people who run around claiming their way is the "right" & only way when they cannot come up with one single fact to support their claim(s).

I seriously doubt anyone here honestly cares one way or the other as to what you do in your personal life. What really matters is how you present yourself and your opinions here on the Ampage.

The Ampage consists of people who **freely** give their time to help others as well as sharing ideas about amps as well as many other things. Many of these people have been posting for a long time here (years) and are very well respected both here and in the amp world. It's cool to

disagree because when people have two different opinions that's what's going to happen.

Nah! Bruce never stepped on my toes. He was just responding to my original post. I can't help it if I'm right!

If you are in fact "right" ... then where are the facts to support your claim? If you are going to talk way out of line about how much "more right" you are than everyone else, insult people and generally resort to a 6th grade mentality then it certainly helps to back it up with facts otherwise your credibility is pretty much shot on this BBS.

Your properly formed Electrolytics will last longer(Years) if you do this. Do it right the first time and you will be well rewarded

Rewarded with what? There's no proof that your way actually lengthens the life expectancy of any given cap. Leo Fender just turned the amps on and there's plenty of caps working 30 years or more later so by your definition he must have been totally wrong(?) What makes your way right? What facts do you have to support your claim??

A lot of folks claim that "new" Electrolytic caps need not be formed/reformed. I plainly disagree.

That's totally cool Jason, honestly it is. It's also known as an "opinion" and just because you disagree with the rest of us doesn't make your way "right." It's that simple. We can all agree to disagree and most of us do because it's no big deal. To go to the extreme and "grand stand" about how right you are is just foolish without facts to back up your beliefs.

Yeah, I agree about learning at AMPAGE. I come here to relax and learn also. I would like to continue to do so.

I guess you figure your insults have won you some well deserved respect here? Insulting some of the nicest and most well respected techs is NOT the way to go and insulting people doesn't validate anything you have claimed to be true.

Trace

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From: Jason (jlc1a1@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 10:00 PM
Subject: Re: Jason...Facts on reforming caps please(?)

Trace,

RE: Hypocrisy

I said "WE" as in, myself included!

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Charlie
Date: 3/3/2001 12:28 AM
Subject: Bite the Bullet

Change every cap in the thing. I have a SFSR and a SF Bassman 100 that are the same age. I did the total cap thing with them and the sound is just right at unbelievable. Do all the caps, you will never regret it.

Trust me, I'm from the Government. I'm here to help (;-)

Charlie

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From: steven oda (ahnoda@msn.com)
Date: 3/3/2001 4:49 AM
Subject: Forming Caps

Funky false tones usually means bad filter caps. These boys need to be "formed" before you start wailing away.

Use a Variac to slowly apply ever increasing VDC voltage to the electrolytic caps, over a period of a few hours.

Once formed, the caps will last and sound most wonderful.

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From: Bruce (MissionAmp@aol.com)
Date: 3/3/2001 6:34 PM
Subject: Re: Forming Caps

Caps made within the last few years will not need to be reformed, although using a variac at startup with an amp with fresh caps is a good idea, if not just to make sure you wired them in right and something is not shorted.

Bruce

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From: Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 4:36 AM
Subject: Debunking tube amp myths

Bruce:

BTW have you ever noticed that power supply caps (like speakers) "break in" after you have powered up the amp for maybe 5 or 10 hours? When Gil built one of his clones, it didn't sound right to him for the first day or two... I think that it might have been making intermittent popping noises. But after a few days it worked perfectly. At the time we thought that it might have been the electrolytic caps, and that perhaps they sometimes need to be broken in at operating voltages for 5 or 10 hours...

To address some of the issues brought up in this thread, you have been building amps for several years now and have sold maybe 100 amps- right? If not forming the e-caps was to cause them to fail prematurely, you would certainly know about it by now. Or does it supposedly affect some of the more ethereal qualities of a cap (like giving them a Holy Grail tone... )? I doubt that!

Your campaign to debunk many of the tube amp myths circulating on the internet has stepped on toes from time to time...  I've learned to put my steel-toe boots on before reading some of your more flamboyant posts here!

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

P.S. In defense of Jason there are many things that I do that probably aren't 100% necessary (or even 1% necessary!) but I do them anyway... like clicking the lock 5 times whenever I close a

door. 

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 5:14 AM
Subject: Re: Debunking tube amp myths

Steve,

Nah! Bruce never stepped on my toes. He was just responding to my original post. I can't help it if I'm right! I bet he really forms his caps too. Maybe not. Judging by his knowledge, I would not believe his products suffer from a lack of quality. I just think that Bruce likes a challenge. That is fine with me. I do too. Overkill is a good quality in an amp. I like Nikon Cameras. Chevy Trucks. PRS Guitars. Tele Vue Telescopes. ELNA Caps. Trainwreck's. HiWatts. Mullards. Fuji Film. Carhartt. Acacia Basses. CAT Trackhoes. Nikkor Lenses. Yeungling Lager(Pennsylvania Pisswater beats Colorado Coors!). I love things that scream "Quality"! Never enough overkill in my book! I love to push mechanical items to their limits. I like them to understand that I don't F@ Around. I like to push products to the extremes that they were designed for. I like them to perform over and over consistantly.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 6:14 AM
Subject: Re: Debunking tube amp myths

Jason:

Just to get this straight you form your caps so that they last longer and do not fail prematurely... or is there some other benefit?

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 6:58 AM
Subject: Re: Debunking tube amp myths

Steve,

Yes to both statements. To answer the question, please read my post to SpeedRacer.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 8:11 PM
Subject: Re: Debunking tube amp myths

Jason:

Yes to both statements. To answer the question, please read my post to SpeedRacer.

I just read that post and was wondering how long you had left the amp powered up when you were getting the assorted hums and noises. Less than an hour or two?

I had mentioned Gil Ayan's experiences with one of the clones he had built from scratch with all new filter caps... after the third day(?) when he was getting ready to tear it apart to find the source of those noises, they were gone! And my own limited experience with new filter caps leads me to believe that it does take a day or two before they are fully broken in. While I don't recall any hums or buzzes or pops, the sound seems to be a bit "brittle" the first day or two.

So if we assume that filter caps need to be broken in for a day or two, it would make sense that we form them as you suggest; with a brand new engine in a car you don't crank it up to 125mph on the first test run- right?

On the other hand, let us look at the consequences of NOT forming caps, as reported by other people here. The reported incidents of new filter caps failing prematurely when wired correctly is very rare. So that would lead me to believe that forming caps is not absolutely necessary.

However, to play devil's advocate for a moment, there **ARE** numerous reports here about new DIY amps that do have a lot of hum and noise... maybe one or more of the filter caps were damaged to some extent because they were **not** formed. That is worth considering, but then again most of those problems were corrected by redoing the lead dress or grounding scheme. But who knows, maybe there still are some of our amps out there that hum and buzz more than

they should because of a damaged dielectric.

As for all of the production amps from Fender, Marshall, Peavey, etc., I wonder how (and if) they test them out before they leave the factory. It would make sense that they be connected (albeit briefly) to a variac, with the current monitored as the voltage is brought up to full power. If the current was excessive they would be sent back for testing and rework; if the current was normal they would be shipped out.

At least for combo amps, if the initial sound was a bit brittle that could be blamed on the speakers needing to be broken in first. Also, music stores do mention that new amps sometimes have noise problems; rather than ship them out for repairs I think that they just move them around the store and who knows, maybe they will cure themselves? 😊 But it would be interesting to test out brand new amps with broken-in speakers just to see if their sound improves after a few hours of play-testing.

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

P.S. So how do you form caps? Before you wire them up in an amp or afterwards? Once they are installed would you remove all of the tubes and then connect the amp to a variac? Would you leave a rectifier tube in or not? What voltages would you set the variac to, and for how long? Thanks!

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From: Trace (voodooamps@aol.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 3:32 PM			
Subject: From PA, hmmm....			

Yeungling Lager(Pennsylvania Pisswater beats Colorado Coors!).

Ohhh boyyyyy....never insult a man's beer! (ha, ha) So you really are from PA then, that's cool. I wonder how far you are from Ithaca NY? We should get together sometime. PA is pretty big so it depends on what part of PA you are in of course. Drop me a line!



Trace
voodooamps.com

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From: Jason (jlc1a1@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:01 PM
Subject: Re: From PA, hmmm....

Trace,

Not more than a few hours from Ithaca. Hey, what's your deal anyway? Your other post was designed to insult, and this one seems designed to befriend. So, what is it? Friend or Foe?

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Trace (voodooamps@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:19 PM
Subject: Re: From PA, hmmm....

Not more than a few hours from Ithaca. Hey, what's your deal anyway? Your other post was designed to insult.....

Not to insult my friend but to make you take a look at the other side of things. Most of the people who come here all the time know I'm not a very insulting or mean guy at all, I never have been.

and this one seems designed to befriend. So, what is it? Friend or Foe?

I'm one of the nicest guys you'll meet. I have no personal beef with you or anyone here. Leading newbie's and beginners into thinking forming caps makes a difference in a cap's life span is taking things a little too far because it's not based on facts. It's that simple really.

This board is based on 1.) Helping people and 2.) Removing the myth or industry hype where we can. I don't think it helps anyone to tell them forming caps is the right way or that you are right and we're wrong. If you want to show proof then that's cool because I'll be the very first to step up and say "I was wrong."

I try to help as many people as possible with the free time I have. I'll tell someone if what I suggest or like is my opinion or if it's a fact. I never bulldoze over people and try to make them

think my way is the best way because that's just wrong. Let people decide for themselves based on the facts (not hype or myths).

I know many of these techs on here (some I know personally) and we all have different ways of doing things but we all get along because it boils down to opinions.

To quote another tech here; "Opinions are matters of taste and as with matters of taste there can be no right or wrong."

If you want to stop up, hang out, and shoot the breeze you're MORE than welcome, truly!

Trace

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From: Rebel420 (giorfida@drifteramps.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 6:58 PM			
Subject: Re: Debunking tube amp myths			

Yeungling Lager(Pennsylvania Pisswater beats Colorado Coors!).

not all PA pisswater is created equal... after all, we also have Iron City... nuff said. Since you are from PA, if you are near Pgh. let me know and maybe we can get together sometime to exchange some ideas!.

Although, from your posts, and the references to guys in Tx. AND how much you sound like a guy that used to hang on here,(also from TX), wanted to start an amp company with the "help" of some of our ideas (to be taken as his own), and on a weekends worth of amp experience on his own.... are you sure you are NOT from Texas? Actually.... maybe you and he should hook up... I'm sure he could use someone with your knowlege and expertise background you say you do... could be a good symbiotic relationship there.

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 7:10 PM			
Subject: Re: Debunking tube amp myths			

Rebel,

I am outside of Philadelphia.

As for your Texan Friend, I know not who you speak of. If you my postings/replies, you will plainly see that I am not interested in ripping anybody off. As a matter of fact, I usually respond to other's postings where I feel I may be of some help, as I have on this particular post. It has obviously turned into a "Witch Trial". (Chuckle). Feel free to accuse me of anything your heart desires, but if you read previous/present/future postings, I think you may change your mind. Anyway, The Penguins(enemy) Stink!(Another Chuckle). Broad Street Bullies Still Rule!

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/3/2001 7:20 PM
Subject: Re: Always "Form or Burn In" Filters

Tim,

Whether you use Polarized Electrolytics or Non-Polarized Caps, always slowly(5 VAC increments) form your Dielectric for Electrolytics or "Soft Start" your Non-Polarized Caps. Use a Variac(VARIABLE AC). Of course do this after checking and rechecking your construction. I like to "Stress" the circuit by 10% AC Line Voltage to let the amp know I mean business! This is not a problem in properly designed/executed designs. "Burn" her in for as long as you can to bring the circuit up to optimum operating temperatures. This can take many hours. Do not leave the amp unattended, in case of problems(common sense). Use 5VAC increments on the Variac. After you feel comfortable with safety/reliability, go ahead and disconnect the variac and give her the true test. Some say that new electrolytics need not be formed. This is simply not true. I have found that many of these "new" caps do sit on the shelves at times in the distributor's warehouse. Be conservative and form them anyway! That is just from folks who are in a hurry to meet deadlines from customers. Your properly formed Electrolytics will last longer(Years) if you do this. Do it right the first time and you will be well rewarded.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Cap'nCrunch
Date: 3/4/2001 5:44 AM
Subject: Re: Always "Form or Burn In" Filters

I agree. Same advice applies to a new car engine.
Frank

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From: Bruce (MissionAmp@aol.com)

Date: 3/4/2001 6:43 PM

Subject: I still think it's BS

Some say that new electrolytics need not be formed. This is simply not true.

Jason, perhaps you and Frank should get together and define what "reformed" or "reformation" means so the rest of us "folks who are just in a hurry to meet deadlines from customers" can be enlightened by your expertise, master.

Your backhanded insult to me was not well received here and I doubt by anyone else who does this for a living and cares about what they do like I care.

And reforming non electrolytic caps?... explain.

Reform what, the dielectric *****, fill it in.

IMO, new E-caps DO NOT need to be reformed, and except for E-caps that have been sitting around for years, this "hours" of 5vac increments to 10% above max AC input is more internet driven amp guru BS and an unneeded waste of time.

I'm also curious where you have proof that they will last "longer (years)" if you do this?

Proper exercise of any E-cap will make it last for years too.

I have found that many of these "new" caps do sit on the shelves at times in the distributor's warehouse.

Really..? What's that supposed to mean? Sit around for how long and how long is too long?

As I mentioned before, using a variac to start up a fresh amp with new E-caps is very useful in terms of making sure they are wired up right, and I would use it to slowly bring DC voltages up in older Ecaps but certainly not for hours on end in 5vac increments... that's laughable.

Bruce

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From: Dave K (davekseattle@yahoo.com)

Date: 3/4/2001 7:05 PM

Subject: Re: I still think it's BS

I talked to an engineer at NACC-Mallory a few years ago, a guy with 20+ years of experience. He stated flatly that new E-caps DO NOT need reforming, period.

Dave K

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From: Jason (jlc1a1@aol.com)
Date: 3/4/2001 7:49 PM
Subject: Re: I still think it's BS

Dave K,

20+ years of experience gets angry and insulted at my opinion. Instead of getting angry or insulted, I get conservative. I will continue to slowly form all electrolytic caps, no matter what. Was your Engineer friend just an Engineer with 20+ years of experience, or a truly great Engineer with 20+ years experience? Did he give you any good reason why you should not slowly form caps? I stand by my methods, opinions, and amplifiers.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Dave K (davekseattle@yahoo.com)
Date: 3/4/2001 8:32 PM
Subject: Re: I still think it's BS

Jason,

A few years ago I called NACC-Mallory and talked to their engineer of aluminum electrolytic capacitors. I wanted to clear up a few questions I had regarding E-caps, one of them being the reforming of new caps. I like to go straight to the source whenever possible, instead of taking the word of some "guru". IMO, the Mallory TC and TCG series E-caps are high quality caps, so that's who I called. If you want to take exception to what the engineer at NACC-Mallory told me, fine. He simply told me that there is no reason or benefit to reforming new E-caps. I like to dispel rumor and myth, some like to profit from it.

Just MHO 😊

Dave K

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/4/2001 9:03 PM
Subject: Re: I still think it's BS

Dave,

Thanks for clarifying. I also think that Mallory TC Electrolytics are very high quality caps. To set records straight, I have never sold an amp.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/4/2001 7:40 PM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Bruce,

First, I will say that my opinion(RE: Deadlines) was not an insult to You or anybody else here at AMPAGE. I have found that insults are only valid if they hint of truth. If there is no hint of truth to my statement, then it should not be taken as an insult.

A lot of folks claim that "new" Electrolytic caps need not be formed/reformed. I plainly disagree. I like to be extremely conservative in my design/construction of amps, so I always slowly bring the voltage up using a VARIAC. This is done with Non-Polarized(such as SCR) caps as well. I buy Mallory TC Series, Sprague(Vishay) Atom Series, and ELNA Cerafine Series Electrolytic Caps exclusively for my Guitar amps. I always ask about shelf time. Sometimes they know, sometimes they do not. I assume at least 6 months. I feel that you should run any amp at full operating voltages at least once/month.

As for the 10% above line voltage, I feel that any problems with components will manifest themselves during this time. It is a commonsense safety and reliability measure.

Lastly, I will continue to use these methods whether your personal standards of quality and reliability demand them or not. I will also vehemently suggest that others also use them in place of your apparently substandard recommendations. At face value, that is an insult.

Sincerely,

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Graywater (rmercure@mikrotec.com)

Date: 3/4/2001 8:21 PM

Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Jason,

I've been repairing tube electronic equipment for over 30 years and I've never seen the need to form caps. A few years ago a commercial electronics supply firm went out of business and I picked up several boxes of electrolytics. Some of these were Mallorys made in the late 1980s. Just for the hell of it I "formed" a couple monitoring charging current as I went - all charged up really fast without trouble. Since then I've been just wiring these up into circuits and firing them up with no trouble. I've also used some octal socket plugin mil surplus caps from the 1950s without problems.

I also found your reply to Bruce insulting and condescending and I suspect that you have little practical electronic experience and spend more of your time reading hi fi magazines than with a hot soldering iron in your hand. Even though you suggest you meant no insult you refer to Bruce's reply as "substandard recommendations" - alright, provide us with the "standard." Is this from EIA, the National Bureau of Standards or other standard setting institutions or just the Arthur Bureau of Bluster?

Personally, I really don't care how you install capacitors or anything else. And, while I may disagree with your surmisions/observations I'm not going to insult you just because we disagree.

Also, your expansion of the term Variac as an abbreviation is incorrect - it is just a brand name.

GW

PS: I do agree with "running in/buring in" any new piece of equipment but a month seems a tad long. Anyway, I feel that burning it in with a signal into a dummy load under more or less "real-life" operating conditions is more important than the length of time.

PPS: A believe that Thoreau (or was it Emerson) said that a "foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/4/2001 9:16 PM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Graywater,

Take the skirt off!

RE: VARIAC

I realize that it is a brand name. It just makes it easier to clarify the logic of the name/purpose of this item to people new to the field.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Graywater (rmercure@mikrotec.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 2:40 AM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Jason,

"Take the skirt off?" Huh????

GW

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 4:18 AM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Graywater,

HaHa. I love a good Witch Trial.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: M.C.S. (Sbluestubes@aol.com)

Date: 3/5/2001 5:00 AM

Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

PPS: A believe that Thoreau (or was it Emerson) said that a "foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."

It was Emerson and he didn't form his new caps with a variac either.

M.C.S.

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From: MindCritic

Date: 3/5/2001 5:04 AM

Subject: Now Graywater,

PPS: A believe that Thoreau (or was it Emerson) said that a "foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."

Aside from a blindingly obvious grammatical mistake-of the elementary level-spearheading the childish attack on Jason C., I found nothing amusing about your use of paraphrasing to insult. "A man who can't think for himself uses the thoughts of others". Now, whom do I credit for saying that? I believe it was Jerry Garcia...or perhaps me! Now tell me, what famous American psychologist shall I credit with this one: "yeah...Fast cars and big words...must have a little dick!"?

Look at you Graywater! Sitting there on your mighty branch; making us pay the price for your phallic shortcomings. For shame that you should use your education to make a man feel lowly. The knowledge you learn is meant to be taught. You become angry at those who reflect your weaknesses. Learn now that it's not Jason's C.'s fault that your parents left you with a little penis. I'll start up a genetics bbc so we can waste time making "small" talk about your small pecker (and those ghastly carbuncles). I come here to learn and watch. For months I've watched unseen.

Now, Graywater, I tell you to use caution,
my friend

You don't know where Bruce has been...

On a "Mission" with some tubes
won't leave him time for seeing boobs,

Settle now, he will for caps

LDR's and leather snaps

Watch Bruce spank Graywatter's ass

Ride the donkey! Make a pass

You guys really make me sick
Why don't you all suck my....

How's that for poetry! Until next time kids,
aufwiedersehen! Bis spater!

a mind is a terrible thing to waste-
Mindcritic

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From: Jason (jlc1a1@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 6:38 AM
Subject: Re: MindCritic

MindCritic,

Funny how these freindly posts turn into "Witch Trials"! Why not post using your name? Some of these guys are only Bullies. If it came down to the wire, I bet they would cower in shame as opposed to having a pair when confronted. KittyCats, Really! I deal with real, honorable men during the day. We do not have these types of problems/converstaions. And there is a lot more money/reputation at stake! I am thinking a lot lately about whether I really want to get into dealing with HyperEgotistical Musicians for a living. I prefer the "I Have 30+ Years In Construction!" crowd. At least these folks don't cry at the keyboard.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Graywater (rmercure@mikrotec.com)
Date: 3/6/2001 12:37 AM
Subject: Re: Now Graywater,

MC,

Funny, you seem to know more about my penis than I do - but, as a woman once told me "it ain't the height of the waves, it's the motion of the ocean."

You note that I speak well and I have been accused of being a cunning linguist.

So, my well endowed friend, someday perhaps you'll lose your virginity and not worry so much about the size of your cod nor your ego.

GW

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From: Bruce (MissionAmp@aol.com)

Date: 3/4/2001 9:46 PM

Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

. I will also vehemently suggest that others also use them in place of your apparently substandard recommendations. At face value, that is an insult.

Jason, at face value, the only thing substandard around here that I've noticed,... is your tact and your wit.

Bruce

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)

Date: 3/4/2001 10:03 PM

Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Bruce,

I We Todd Did Me Ted.

Jason(Witless, Tactless) Arthur

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From: Bruce (MissionAmp@aol.com)

Date: 3/4/2001 10:28 PM

Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Woof! ha ha

Bruce

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From: Rebel420 (giorfida@drifteramps.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 6:50 PM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

I We Todd Did Me Ted.

... ya know, you mention "6th grade tactics"... are you jealous because you have to resort to lower than those? Dude, this is a board full of those who know and want to know moare about amps... and we all ahve opinions, and they are just that... I don/t have to call you "retarded" because your opinions differ from mine... we can all agree to disagree, and that's fine... but the personal insults really dont add any to your credibility.

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:12 PM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Rebel,

You didn't get it. That was me responding to Bruce in a "Retarded" Voice. He got it. Just trying to lighten it up a bit.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Rebel420 (giorfida@drifteramps.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 3:07 AM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

A lot of folks claim that "new" Electrolytic caps need not be formed/reformed. I plainly disagree. I like to be extremely conservative in my design/construction of amps, so I always slowly bring the voltage up using a VARIAC.

... and to think, how many thousands of people have blindly fired up brand new Fenders, Marshalls, Boogies, Peaveys, Crates, and just about any other mass produced tube amp, where they dont have eveyr signle amp tested, burnt in etc, but rather wire her up and go! over the years, and never took the time to 'form' the caps...

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 4:21 AM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Rebel 420,

One of the reasons I like to "roll my own"! I like to know that the amp is constructed/designed properly. I no longer buy other manufacturer's products.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Rebel420 (giorfida@drifteramps.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 5:31 PM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

So am I to assume you will be at the NYC gathering? or at least sending an amp along for us to hear?

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:14 PM
Subject: Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.

Rebel,

As I have said before, I plan on having some finished products by the end of Summer 2001. Wish me luck! I would love to meet some of you guys.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: morry
Date: 3/5/2001 10:05 PM
Subject:

yeah, end of summer. the caps ought to be formed by then!!! hahahahaha.

dude, do you chew your food precisely 16 times before swallowing? oh i forgot, you probably spit, not swallow. do you wash your hands alot?

it is possible to be too concerned with details. some call it obsessive-compulsive disorder.

maybe you should seek therapy.

oh, and I have a sneaky suspicion "MindCritic" is a Jason C. Arthur alto ego that had to let off some steam. nice trick allowing the "Jason" personality be the nice guy. what i can't figure out is how someone who calls itself MindCritic could be so obsessed with the displacement capacity of one's phallus.

Jason, here's the deal. You basically have no place being uppity about amp design and construction because, as you say, you've never sold an amp. For all we know your amps are crap and your delusional mind allows you to hear what you want to hear. This is akin to the thousands of guitar players who might think/claim they are better than Vai, Johnson, SRV, (insert favorite guitar idol here) but because they only ever play in their parents' basement no one will ever know. it's definitely possible that your amps are better than dumble, bogner, fisher, et al, but until an outside observer or player (ie. deadline driving customer) provides you with this kind of feedback your credibility is no greater than that of my anonymous rant. your lack of experience in the real world gives you that "i know what i know, and i'm right" attitude because you have yet to form or own opinions (only your filter caps).

good luck in Group.

Moribund the Burgermeister.

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From: nuke (larrysb@aol.com)
Date: 3/6/2001 12:15 AM
Subject: **Re: Form those caps, there is no reason not to.**

---Quote---

I will also vehemently suggest that others also use them in place of your apparently substandard recommendations. At face value, that is an insult.

Sincerely,

Jason C. Arthur

---End Quote---

I don't use this kind of language often, but Jason, go fuck yourself.

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From: Cap'nCrunch

Date: 3/5/2001 3:38 AM

Subject: Re: I still think it's BS

Bruce,

Really, what gives? Why don't you take it easy? Must you become so defensive when challenged? Accept the challenge, lay out your logic, and either agree or agree to disagree. Neither of you can prove what you say, here in this forum, about such an intangible as burning in a cap. C'mon everyone and lighten up. I don't know about you guys, but I come here to relax and soak up some knowledge.

Frank 😊

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From: Stephen Conner (steve@esru.strath.ac.uk)

Date: 3/5/2001 1:08 PM

Subject: It is BS

As far as I'm concerned there is no room for argument. The manufacturer forms the caps for you before they leave the factory. Trying to reform them yourself is pointless, unless they have been kicking about a store for 10 years or so. And in that case, I wouldn't use them at all. Electrolytics have a date code and you should reject any that are too old.

There's a difference between the pursuit of quality, and quasi-religious rituals born of ignorance. Jason's slow power-up trick will probably ruin his tubes by running them for hours with reduced emission. BRING ON THE FLAMES!

Steve C.

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:17 PM
Subject: Re: It is BS

Stephen,

It is performed without the tubes installed, using solid state rectification. Use a plug in type if you use a tube rectifier. Assume nothing, and take nothing for granted before opening up your mouth.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Stephen Conner (steve@esru.strath.ac.uk)
Date: 3/6/2001 3:52 PM
Subject: Re: It is BS

OK- I apologize for suggesting you would be dumb enough to wreck your tubes.

steve C.

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From: Richie{~}==::
Date: 3/6/2001 3:24 PM
Subject: Facts??

I thought i'd post some things i grabbed off the net. how to: Reform or condition Electrolytic Filter Caps

The electrolytic material inside any cap (new or old) that has not be in use (for months or years) needs to be "formed" slowly. Failure to do so could damage the cap, it might even blow up in your face!

To re-form the filter caps in your vintage H.H. Scott gear, use a special tool called Variac. A Variac is an auto-transformer that lets you adjust or choose the AC supply from 0 to 130 VAC.

The idea in reforming the filter caps is to SLOWLY AND SMOOTHLY bring the unit up to the normal operating voltage of 117 VAC. This process should take between 20 to 40 minutes and should be done without large jumps in voltage. This is very similar to the procedure described under 1st SOFT START.

<http://www.epanorama.net/>

<http://www.angela.com/> When you get here there is a link to how and why you might form them.

these links have many places for tech info and finding out why you might want to reform caps.

Some from cap companies..then others are from other peoples opinions..tests,charts etc..plenty to read,then wonder yourself if you think you need to do this. And as Steve posted .i saw a old pic of a company that reformed before letting them go out. Usually the old caps may need reforming,and it will tell why. I hope this helps everyone figure this out. And decide for yourself if you do or don't want to reform caps.

Richie{~}==:::

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From: SpeedRacer (Joe@ObsoleteElectronics.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 4:40 AM			
Subject: Re: Pls Substantiate claims			

Some say that new electrolytics need not be formed. This is simply not true

Source of this wisdom pls? Facts? Something other than opinion at least pls.. I'm with Bruce, GW and the folks at Mallory.. I've tried it plenty of times, (I try to keep an open mind) & never saw a bit of improvement of any kind and frankly think it's a crock. You're obviously a true believer so how did that come to be? Give us simple folk a leg up here..

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From: Cap'nCrunch			
Date: 3/5/2001 5:14 AM			
Subject: Re: Pls Substantiate claims			

Perhaps the difference can be seen near the end of the caps life expectancy. It doesn't necessarily make an initial difference, but in theory, maybe it helps increase the lifespan of the component. Just something to think about. Maybe resonsible for some amps of the same design outlasting others(abuse/use taken into consideration along with other factors). I make opinions based on the facts that I can gather. As a result, my opinion may vary with the discovery of new thoughts and insights gathered from you guys. Pour on the knowledge.

Frank

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From: Dave K (davekseattle@yahoo.com)

Date: 3/5/2001 5:25 AM

Subject: New marketing opportunity!

I'm thinking of selling new manufacture reformed caps. At the time of order I will start reforming the cap with my variac set at 5vac, continuing to increase the voltage every day until I hit 130vac input. All caps will be taken up to the max voltage rating for stress test. Of course you can completely trust me to do this, after all you can hear the difference in tone, and your caps will last years longer, right? 😊

Dave K

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)

Date: 3/5/2001 6:01 AM

Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!

Dave,

I think we are moving away from the Competent Tech/Engineering Mentality and moving in the direction of Sixth Grade Mentality. If this is what the WWW is all about (smartass comments/0% thought/"Witch Trials"/inflated egos), count me out. I came to AMPAGE because I can converse with others about my favorite subject on the Planet. I am beginning to think that it is a haven for "Bullies" who, if they knew me personally, may find it wise to think twice before making editorial comments. Feel free to "bully" others, I can't and won't be. Usually, in my Life, I call the shots.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Dave K (davekseattle@yahoo.com)

Date: 3/5/2001 6:28 AM

Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!

Jason,

Relax,take it easy,just havin some fun.Actually what I posted has some truth to it,as many years ago a new amp builder from Texas was touting the benefits of the preformed E-caps he was selling.

Believe it or not,there are some incredibly knowledgeable people here,some with many decades of real world experience with tube amps,we can all learn a thing or two from them,right?

Dave K

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From: Jason (jlc1a1@aol.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 6:44 AM			
Subject: Re: New marketing oppoertunity!			

Dave,

Yeah, I agree about learning at AMPAGE. I come here to relax and learn also. I would like to continue to do so.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Bryan James (Bjames@james-gang.org)			
Date: 3/5/2001 4:38 PM			
Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!			

I've been reading all the post on this thread.

while you are asking people to listen to your idea's an thought and be open minded and not act like children. in the same post you are doing the oppisite. seems that if someone doesn't agree with your idea you tell them there wrong and insult them even if you didn't orginally mean to. then when they respond you cry wolf that everyone is picking on you to gain sympathy.

alot of people spent time to debunk the reform cap theory for new caps and also pointed out that caps old enough that need to be reformed are old and shouldn't be used. the person "bulling" as you put it is you. don't poke the bee's nest then run screaming the bee's are picking on you.

-Bryan

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:22 PM
Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!

Bryan,

The "colloquialisms" are put there to try to lighten up the harshness of the conversations. While I am writing the rebuttals, I really am enjoying myself. I honestly have a true smile on. Come On! It's just business as usual! I never cried "wolf", and, like I stated before, Can any one of you give me any good, solid reason why I should not form filters? Please explain.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Rebel420 (giorfida@drifteramps.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:40 PM
Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!

*Can any one of you give me any good, solid reason why I should not form filters?
Please explain.*

No reason NOT to... exactly... I think the point here is that you came off as saying you HAVE to do it, or it ain't gonna work type of attitude. Most people on here, whether they are full-time tech, part time tech, or just an evening tinkerer, don't have the time to put into the forming. It's a law of diminishing returns (in economic terms) for most. Some or most, depending on how you look at it, weight the benefits of doing thigns both ways. If you are not going to hurt anything by not forming them, then look at all the time youwill be able to put into learning more amp designs, practicng yoru playing, working on other amps, spending time with the wife and kids etc... so the reason NOT to do it is economic-- evne if forming would make a cap last say 15yrs as opposed to 10 yrs... and taking a mean age of say 35yrs old, and assuming you will live to be 70, you would have to change the caps 3 more times in your lifetime, as opposed to 1 more time... Thing is, I COULD change the caps in my amsp 5 times over in the time it will take you to do it once... that is economically sound. Not to mention, people who tech, or do any kind of work, you learn that you rtime can be assigned a monetary value... so for me, and probably a good number on here, the numbers don't add up. If you have the time to spare by doing so, then knock yoruself out!!

ANother reason why the 'must re-form them' was taken so badly, is a lot of DIY'ers, dont have a variac, so why should they be discouraged from doing a simple job like recapping their

Marshall or Fender, because of that? IT all boils down to opinion, and personal value. I'm not going to say you are wrong for re-forming all the caps you use., however, the only 'wrong' is in saying it's an absolute must.

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:42 PM
Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!

Rebel,

I NEVER stated that anybody had to do anything I recommend. I was merely trying to give some guidelines in my original post.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Rebel420 (giorfida@drifteramps.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:59 PM
Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!

Your properly formed Electrolytics will last longer(Years) if you do this. Do it right the first time and you will be well rewarded

You were implying that there is concrete proof that they will last longer, which has yet to be proven by any concrete evidence.

...as for why you SHOULDN"T do it, there are none-- at least for you rown personal amps--if you have the time to spare, then do so!! .. however, if you are doing repairs for people, don't do so, unless they ask for it -- most don't want the extra tiem to be charged

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From: jpl (jimlorber@hotmail.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 9:24 PM
Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!

Jason,

"Forming" refers to the process of oxidizing the

anode of an electrolytic capacitor. This is done prior to the assembly of the foils into the container. The aluminum is passed through one or more tanks of electrolyte solution at a high voltage creating a thin layer of oxide that acts as an insulator. After the device is assembled the manufacturer will "age" the cap by applying a current limited voltage higher than the rated voltage but lower than the "forming" voltage. This heals any areas of the oxide on the anode that were damaged during the assembly process. During normal use a capacitor is self-healing. Variations in the oxide layer are repaired by oxygen from the H2O in the electrolyte. This creates hydrogen gas, in small amounts that is vented from the case. If a large defect exists in the oxide layer the hydrogen gas can build up rapidly and explode when heated. It doesn't take much hydrogen to blow a cap. Electrolytics can develop holes in the oxide layer during extended storage. Aging the cap again can repair these defects. A current limited DC voltage at, or slightly above the rated capacity is applied while monitoring the current. This process takes only 30 minutes to complete. The only time you would need to age a new electrolytic is if it had been stored for several years or more. New fresh electrolytic capacitors do not need to be "aged", and if they did, anymore than 30 minutes is not required. If the current flow does not drop to an acceptable level after 30 minutes you have a defective cap. Once the capacitor reaches the end of its life there is simply not enough electrolyte to repair the oxide layer and the cap exhibits unacceptable leakage or ESR. The primary factor that determines the life of the cap is the operating temp. The higher the temp the faster the H2O evaporates from the electrolyte. There is no correlation between the aging process and the life span of the cap. I believe this is why Fender amps house the ecaps in the doghouse underneath the chassis away from the heat of the tubes. Some of these caps have lasted well beyond their expected life. Some good links:

<http://www.cornell-dubilier.com/guide1.pdf>

http://www.angela.com/catalog/how-to/about_caps.html

http://www.faradnet.com/deeley/chapt_13.htm

Jim L

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From: tommy (tommy@thewho.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 9:55 PM			
Subject: Re: New marketing opportunity!			

Jim L,

Damn straight! Testify! Everything you stated matches to what I've always heard. Heat is definitely the killer. Another reason to put good ventilation on your amps besides your power tranny and tubes.

Science rocks.

Chris

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)

Date: 3/5/2001 5:47 AM

Subject: Re: Jeez Speed! Now I Can Empathize W/ D. Torres!

SpeedRacer,

First off let me say that I am lucky enough to have conversed with some great(possibly the best) amp "Gurus" of all recorded history. I have also read lots of literature on forming caps from various sources. Now that I explained how I first learned of "forming" caps, I will continue my saga.

My first project consisted of an EL-34 based amp. Being green, I bought some caps(guaranteed no leakage!) from a (famous) source in TX. I was led to the falsity that I did not need to form caps from some other "higher ups"(not the folks in TX). I quickly found this to be false. After installing these caps and powering up the amp with fresh Tech Cap and Sprague Atoms, there was a horrible hum and buzz upon firing up. Not owning a Variac, I removed these caps, and wound up baking them in an oven at 150 Degrees F for many hours. I reinstalled the caps and Voila! No Buzz or Hum! No more baking Bullshit for me! I immediately bought a Variac. From this point on, I decided that the articles and advice from the "Gurus" should be heeded. I feel that applying high currents onto the unformed dielectric could "tear" it or possibly even incorrectly "weld" the internal electrodes of the cap when the dielectric is not fully formed. From what I understand, it is the voltage that forms the dielectric. If it is not formed properly, the currents may damage it. Besides, correct me if I am wrong, caps are not really acting as caps until the dielectric is formed? Right? Otherwise, there would be no need for a "dielectric", Right? Dielectrics do eventually crystallize. Am I wrong?

There is my story. Nitpick it all you want. Now I will ask you, SpeedRacer, can you give me a good, solid reason why I should NOT form Electrolytic Caps? Kindly explain. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: nuke (larrysb@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 10:10 AM
Subject: Re: Jeez Speed! Now I Can Empathize W/ D. Torres!

Jason, that's the weirdest story I've ever heard.

1. You bought some caps from an unnamed source in TX. (new? Used? Old stock? wtf?)
2. You built up a homemade amp and it hummed.
3. You BAKED(???) the caps in an oven. (which caps?)
4. You put the amp back together and it was fixed?

I'll put it to you that:

- A. The parts you got may have been bad.
- B. You screwed up installing them.
- C. You somehow fixed the problem the second time around by installing the parts correctly.

Seriously, none of this makes any sense at all.

Millions and millions of electronic products are born off production lines all over the world and none of them need new electrolytic cap forming.

It's just silliness.

The caps are supposed to be fully and completely formed the day they leave the capacitor factory.

The only time a cap needs re-forming is if it has been sitting on a shelf unused for a long time. Years and years.

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From: Cap'nCrunch
Date: 3/5/2001 10:18 AM
Subject: Re: Jeez Speed! Now I Can Empathize W/ D. Torres!

From: Jim (nightrider24NOSPAM@hotmail.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:00 PM
Subject: Re: Jeez Speed! Now I Can Empathize W/ D. Torres!

I don't see what's so silly !?

I always pre-short my fuses before I install them. I also cool them down to 35-40F and run a trickle current for 48 hours to strengthen the molecular structure of the substraight. Interestingly enough, the result is only apparent at the high end, which unfortunately can be cancelled out by the interaction between the choice of cabinet wood, and the preamp tube holders, which resonate at an inverse proportion to the angle of Jupiter to our moon.

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From: N. Tufnel
Date: 3/5/2001 9:54 PM
Subject: Re: Jeez Speed! Now I Can Empathize W/ D. Torres!

Ours go to eleven!!

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From: JWK (tcompton@citlink.net)
Date: 3/6/2001 4:26 PM
Subject: Oh, I am rolling on the floor...

and I haven't had a good laugh like that in a while. Some of you guys just kill me 😊

John

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:28 PM
Subject: Re: Jeez Speed! Now I Can Empathize W/ D. Torres!

Nuke,

Just to clarify: I check wiring above all else before considering "firing" up. My first thought was that I may have screwed up the wiring. It was found that this was (REALLY!) not the case. Why would I knowingly "fire" up an incorrectly wired amp. Second, YES, It Hummed miserably.

Third, I baked the caps in an oven for several hours. Fourth, Yes, I put the amp back together and it worked. Last, you may be correct, the parts may have been sitting around for a long time, which is why I form all electrolytics.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: nuke (larrysb@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 11:03 PM
Subject: Re: Jeez Speed! Now I Can Empathize W/ D. Torres!

Jason,

Why on god's green earth would you use electrolytic caps that had been sitting around for years?

The only conceivable reason would be trying to do a nuts-on accurate restoration of something extremely valuable with date-code-correct parts.

If they were bad, I would have sent them back immediately to the supplier.

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From: Cap'nCrunch
Date: 3/5/2001 10:12 AM
Subject: and a sad day it is...

when you can empathize with Dan Torres. That guy's been through the ringer here...

Frank J DeSalvo

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
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From: Trace (voodooamps@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 6:06 PM
Subject: Empathize...indeed!

First off let me say that I am lucky enough to have conversed with some great(possibly the best) amp "Gurus" of all recorded history.

Who might these techs be? It seems silly to post it and not reveal who you spoke with since you cannot factually support your claim. It's obvious that this statement was meant to give your claim some sort of validation by mentioning the world's greatest amp techs.

I have also read lots of literature on forming caps from various sources. Now that I explained how I first learned of "forming" caps, I will continue my saga.

What books did you read that gave the proof that reforming caps makes them last longer? Let's not beat around the bush here (hence the saga).

My first project consisted of an EL-34 based amp. Being green, I bought some caps(guaranteed no leakage!) from a (famous) source in TX. I was led to the falsity that I did not need to form caps from some other "higher ups"(not the folks in TX). I quickly found this to be false.

Who's the tech in TX and who are all the other "higher ups???" Again, list them if this is relevant. For what it's worth most of the techs in the US either know each other or talk at the trade shows.

After installing these caps and powering up the amp with fresh Tech Cap and Sprague Atoms, there was a horrible hum and buzz upon firing up. Not owning a Variac, I removed these caps, and wound up baking them in an oven at 150 Degrees F for many hours. I reinstalled the caps and Voila! No Buzz or Hum!

So first they were bad and then they were good again? Could there be the possibility that something was hooked up wrong? It happens to experienced techs as well as someone who is building an amp for the first time (which is what you mentioned).

No more baking Bullshit for me! I immediately bought a Variac. From this point on, I decided that the articles and advice from the "Gurus" should be heeded.

Why should you heed their advice when clearly they were wrong and mis-led you about forming the caps in the first place? (as you stated above in your own words)

I feel that applying high currents onto the unformed dielectric could "tear" it or possibly even incorrectly "weld" the internal electrodes of the cap when the dielectric is not fully formed.

OK, when you use the word "feel" (as in the quote of your words above) you do realize that what you have stated is an opinion and not a fact?

There is my story. Nitpick it all you want.

Well after all the grand-standing about how your way is "right" and everyone is wrong...did you honestly think people wouldn't pick apart your post?

Now I will ask you, SpeedRacer, can you give me a good, solid reason why I should NOT form Electrolytic Caps? Kindly explain. I look forward to hearing from you.

Man-O-Man!! (ha, ha) I'm pretty sure LOTS of people have asked you to list some facts (hell even one fact would be a good start) as to why you **have** to form caps in the first place!!

I'll give you credit for trying to do the 'ol "switch-er-roo" by placing the question on Speedracer. The battle of the wits is not going to won by you my friend. **You** stated your way was right. **You** insulted people when they asked for facts and now **you** are asking speedracer to prove you wrong???

I've done it both ways and I do not hear any sonic or audible difference in tone at all. Why charge the customer to form caps if there is no proven advantage?

You admitted you've never sold an amp to anyone and you presume you know how it all works. Personally speaking I do not feel it's right to charge a customer to form caps when there's no proof it has any advantages. Most people would call that a money "repair-scam."

Customers are people which means they to have access to the internet and I'm sure they can find out that there's no factual reason why they should have to pay more to have their caps formed. Many of the people I deal with are much more savy on amp terms than people were even 5-6 years ago and I think that's a GOOD THING!

It's easy to sit in your chair, point the finger, and post (here on the Ampage) from the comfort of your home. It's easy to lash out at people, insult people, and say we're all full of crap.

Many of us are getting together in NYC for a day (thanks M&G for putting all of it together!!!!) why don't you come down ...Hell, come on down and talk to everyone here and perhaps then your knowledge on tube amps will better be displayed in person than they are here on the Ampage.

It's an honest invite, truly. You can flame all of us in person if you so desire. Heck, you can bring two amps and prove us wrong for that matter. As far as empathizing with Dan T....well what more do one say about that.

Trace

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 7:34 PM			
Subject: Re: Empathize...indeed!			

Trace,

Email me. I would be happy to talk to you regarding the "Techs". I just do not want you folks putting them through the ringer. I especailly would not want anybody here to blame them for my postings. It's not very fair to them, after all, most have been nothing but kind in giving knowledge, unlike some folks around here. As I have said before, instead of fighting me and my opinions, can you gove me one good reason why I should not form caps?

Jason C. Arthur

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: Trace (voodooamps@aol.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 10:21 PM			
Subject: Re: Empathize...indeed!			

I especailly would not want anybody here to blame them for my postings. It's not very fair to them, after all, most have been nothing but kind in giving knowledge, unlike some folks around here.

Is the "unlike some folks around here" aimed at me?

As I have said before, instead of fighting me and my opinions, can you give me one good reason why I should not form caps?

Why is a good question. Why would you bother if there's no proof that it makes a cap last longer? I do not see what the sense is if it isn't proven.

If it makes you happy forming the caps then who am I to tell you differently? I say if it works for you then run with it. Personally I wouldn't take the time if it's not proven that it makes the caps last longer. I'd feel messed up if I had to charge a customer for that when I knew it didn't make a difference for sure.

Trace

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: Jason (j1c1a1@aol.com)			
Date: 3/6/2001 1:14 AM			
Subject: Re: Empathize...indeed!			

Trace,

The answer is NO to your first question.

Jason C. Arthur

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: steveR			
Date: 3/6/2001 12:39 AM			
Subject: Re: Empathize...indeed!			

Hi Jason,

There's a guy in my neighborhood who washes his car almost religiously the first weekend of the month. It's a pretty run-of-the-mill mid nineties Camry. No big deal. (Not a classic or expensive import) A couple years ago I asked him why he washed it so often, and he sort of jokingly offered that he thought he got better mileage. Now we have a running joke every time I pass by while he's scrubbing away. I'll give him a nod and say, "Mileage," and he'll return the nod and reply, "Mileage." I thought he was kidding once, but now I'm pretty sure he believes it...

Now, you have asked for someone to give you a reason not to form your caps. And the general consensus is that no one is telling you that you **SHOULDN'T** form caps, just that it's not necessary. My neighbor apparently really likes to wash his car. And I'm not about to tell him he should stop washing his car because it doesn't really improve his mileage. I suppose if we had a drought I might feel compelled to suggest a more conservative approach to auto cleanliness and make some suggestions for alternatives to improve mileage (proper tire pressure, routine engine maintenance and oil changes, highway driving with windows rolled up...) but trying to convince him to stop washing his car because it has little effect on mileage doesn't seem like the best approach.

I think the reactions here were not an attempt to tell you that you are bad or wrong for forming caps, but only that your zealouslyness may be a bit unfounded, and that insults and jibes are a poor excuse for facts and information when it comes to presenting a reasonable argument.

I can't help but wonder, too, by the nature of your responses if you haven't posted under the name of some certain famous guitar player once before. If not, please forgive the allusion.

happy emissions,

steveR

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From: Jason (jlc1a1@aol.com)
Date: 3/6/2001 1:13 AM
Subject: Re: Empathize...indeed!

Steve,

Illusion Forgiven. I am sorry that you feel that is a possibility. As a matter of fact, I just became web savvy a couple of months ago. I thought the web would be a great way to learn more about amps. Now I question my choices. This is an extremely judgemental place. I probably do not belong here. I happen to be very opinionated also. Oil and water do not mix well.

Best Regards,

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Trace (voodooamps@aol.com)

Date: 3/6/2001 4:04 PM

Subject: The Ampage is a great place Jason...

I thought the web would be a great way to learn more about amps. Now I question my choices.

The web is a great place to learn. You'll learn more here at the Ampage than in all the books combined, in my opinion that is.

Don't question your choice to come to the Ampage but rather question yourself when you post certain things. It's not what you say it's how you say it (or in this case word it). If you type and post something that is getting people upset then you have to ask yourself if it's how you worded the post, chances are it is. It's really that simple.

"If you are going to drop an asteroid in the ocean then you should be prepared for the waves that will come your way." It's an old proverb I think (err...something like that--ha, ha)

This is an extremely judgmental place.

Not in the least. It's how you present yourself that gets you into hot water, not just here but in life in general.

I probably do not belong here. I happen to be very opinionated also. Oil and water do not mix well.

Jason, opinions are perfectly ok, honestly. Trying to force your opinion on other people NEVER works (here as well as in life) it just causes you pain and grief in the long run and why would anyone want to cause themselves grief? I hope you follow me on this. I can't control what you do or how you post, I can only urge you to tone down your posts a touch.

Personally speaking I get upset when I see people lashing out (or whatever one would call it) at my friends. Most of us here are like a family and we get upset when we see someone attacking a family member over an opinion. Opinions are just that...opinions. It's not a loaded gun but when someone insists on shooting their opinion off like a loaded gun you're going to get people upset pretty quickly...then there's the grief, etc., etc.

For what it's worth

Trace

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From: Tim David (timw.david@amd.com)

Date: 3/4/2001 5:04 PM

Subject: Re: Wierd noise

Well I've changed all the coupling caps and the false overtone is still there. No surprise there. Well the last caps to replace now are the filter caps. I also haven't changed the tremolo caps but I don't think that's affecting the sound. The tremolo sounds awesome although I rarely use it.

Does anyone know where to get the 20X20X20 can for the Champ? Hoffman amps is sold out. Would a higher value cap be ok like if I found a 30X30X30 or a 40X20X20? Or would this affect my sound?

THX

Tim

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From: Jason (jlc1a1@aol.com)

Date: 3/4/2001 8:00 PM

Subject: Re: Wierd noise

Tim,

I think that you can get the "Can" caps at Angela Instruments, Antique Electronic Supply, MOJO, or New Sensor. The 40-20-20-20 should be avoided unless you use a 5V4, 5U4, 5AR4 as a rectifier. I believe that 40uF will pop a 5Y3. Stick with the 20uF unless you plan on using a beefier rectifier. You may not like the response/sound of an overfiltered guitar amp, especially a simple Champ circuit.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Pierre Debs (pdebs@mdc-berlin.de)

Date: 3/5/2001 2:41 PM

Subject: Re: Wierd noise

What do you consider overfiltered? In the SEKT88 Amp I built and play constantly I tried two filter scenarios. I used only 47uf ELNAs for all and the second scenario I used 440uf before the choke, 100uf after the choke and a dual 47uf for the screen and pre-amp. the anode comes after the choke. The "overfiltered" scenario sounds far and away better. No hum, tighter clearer bass and no ghost notes. the 47uf scenario sounded weak in comparison.

P

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From: Cap'nCrunch
Date: 3/5/2001 3:46 AM
Subject: Re: Wierd noise

Timbo,

And to think that all you wanted were a few suggestions! This may be a shot in the dark, but have you thought that your speaker may be producing "ghost notes"? Does this occur at higher volumes and on certain notes?

Frank

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From: Chris B (bradaack@cs.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 4:18 AM
Subject: Re: Wierd noise

I'm not sure how the filter caps could affect tone other than power sag. I'd look elsewhere for the noise. I have an amp that makes a buzzing noise every time I hit a certain note, and it took me a long time to track the noise down. It wasn't even in the amp! There is a brass sculpture on a shelf in my room that vibrates at that frequency and makes a buzzy overtone!

My suggestion is to look for a mechanical buzz, or it maybe something rubbing the speaker. Just my .02\$

Hope you find the problem! 😊

Chris B

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From: steven oda (ahnoda@msn.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 6:52 AM
Subject: Dried out raisins

Chris,

My experience is when filter caps get old and dried out (like some original ones in tweeds), they produce this wierd secondary ghost-like noise, at volume. Definitely, not good---anyhow.

Replacing the caps seems to solve this problem. It's a well known fix-it in the hi-fi world of EICO ST-70 amps. They used great transformers and lousy filter caps.

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From: Jason (jlclal@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:16 AM
Subject: Re: Dried out raisins

Steven,

All Right Now! Another staunch conservative(at least when it comes to cap replacement). I bet your amps sound as good as mine(maybe even better?)! Let's hook some of these guys up with Manley(VTL), Fischer(Trainwreck), Alessandro, Funk, Khomenko(Balanced Audio Tech.), Bogner, Leo Fender, Jim Marshall, Blumlein, Baxandall, F. Langford Smith, Thiele and Small, Lee DeForest, Tesla, Etc. Until they attain those credentials/reputations, the opinions mean very little. I feel that my philosophy is a righteous one.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: glen brackston (lonn@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 10:52 AM
Subject: Re: Dried out raisins

jason you are the biggest jackass ive ever seen grace ampage--i see where you get your spare time:all your caps are "burning in" for hours.

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From: KB (ktbktb@eatel.net)
Date: 3/5/2001 4:22 PM
Subject: Re: Dried out raisins

I have to agree with Steve O. here guys. All I've been working on lately is Old HI-FI equipment and these old caps are at least 20 to 30 years old. Some work fine and some don't. The ones that don't you can pretty much book that it's the old Voltage doubler E-caps as the Culprit. It's not that the amp won't work but it surely sounds much better and less hum when you change them. I just don't have a good way of testing them and I'd like to here some comments as well on how you actually tell if they are good,bad,leaking,low ESR and the whole nine yards would be nice. FWIW when I do form caps I use a series primary winded tranny to get the high voltage and some 1 Meg resistors and Auto form them by the time constant. This BS about 5volts per so many hours just doesn't make sense. One to two hours and I'm outta there. They are either good or bad and if they are bad I chunh em,
KB

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From: Jason (j1c1a1@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:40 PM
Subject: Re: Dried out raisins

KB,

5 Volts/hour is just my own way. Obviously this is just opinion, so it can be performed in any time increment you like.

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Jason (j1c1a1@aol.com)
Date: 3/5/2001 7:38 PM
Subject: Re: Dried out raisins

Glen,

Thanks Glen. I would kindly say to you that you can stick it up your ass. Perhaps you have some enlightening advice regarding caps for us jackasses? Can you give me one good reason why I should not form caps?

Jason C. Arthur

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From: Trace (voodooamps@aol.com)

Date: 3/5/2001 6:37 PM

Subject: Caps & Reason...also an INVITE!!!

All Right Now! Another staunch conservative(at least when it comes to cap replacement).

It never ends does it? He replaced caps that were failing. So how on earth does that mean he agrees with your "forming caps" approach? It's cool to fight the good fight but bring some facts to the party.

Let's hook some of these guys up with Manley(VTL), Fischer(Trainwreck), Alessandro, Funk, Khomenko(Balanced Audio Tech.), Bogner, Leo Fender, Jim Marshall, Blumlein, Baxandall, F. Langford Smith, Thiele and Small, Lee DeForest, Tesla, Etc.

WOW!!!!!!! You are either incredibly sarcastic or incredibly foolish. Many of the guys (companies) that you have just listed simply fire the amp up so how does that give you any credibility at all as far as forming caps???

It's pretty common knowledge that Marshall and Fender alone simply turned the amps on so why mention them unless you're putting your amps and yourself in league with them?

If the amps you build/design are in league with all the others you mentioned then on would assume you could be exploding onto the scene any day now(?) Why else would you even bring them up I wonder?

You are wayyyy off base my friend and you're putting yourself in the silly-seat at this point but it's your BBQ so have it at! (ha, ha)

Until they attain those credentials/reputations, the opinions mean very little. I feel that my philosophy is a righteous one.

I'm sure you feel "very righteous" indeed (ha,ha). You certainly qualify to be a judge of men

with all the hard facts you've presented to support your righteous cause.

If I were you (thankfully I am not) I would do my homework/research before putting yourself in league with such techs. Philosophy is just that...philosophy and it doesn't a thing in the amp world. Hitler had a philosophy so does that make him righteous? Some how I seriously doubt it. Righteous people always lash out at others, I wonder why that is?

Again I extend the offer, come on down to the NYC get together and show us what we're doing wrong. I'll even pay for your gas money & expenses, you've got nothing to loose and everything to gain. The ball's in your court my friend.

It'll be fun
Trace

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From:	Jason (jlc1a1@aol.com)
Date:	3/5/2001 7:48 PM
Subject:	Re: Caps & Reason...also an INVITE!!!

Trace,

I never stated that any of the companies/people advocate forming caps. Just that until some around here attain the reputation and knowledge of these folks, that their opinions mean little to me. If this hadn't turned into a bashing session(it has been a while since the Torres bash[chuckle]), I may feel differently about people on this site. Now I have a completely different view of most who responded to my post. As a matter of fact, you seem to be a prime instigator. Thanks for your continued support, Trace.

Jason C. Arthur

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From:	Trace (voodooamps@aol.com)
Date:	3/5/2001 10:43 PM
Subject:	Re: Caps & Reason...also an INVITE!!!

As a matter of fact, you seem to be a prime instigator. Thanks for your continued support, Trace.

I'm not instigating anything here. Point in fact you were the one who posted about forming caps was better so I commented on your posts. I saw you bashing (whatever you call it) on some of the techs who I know to be some of the best techs around and that isn't cool. This isn't the place for that.

If there are not any facts to support your philosophy then the debate is pretty much over, in my opinion that is.

Trace

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: MBSetzer (QualityAna@aol.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 10:50 PM			
Subject: Re: Caps & Reason...also an INVITE!!!			

One good reason not to reform caps would be if you wanted to weed out any weaker ones that had the undesirable tendency to fail unless treated gingerly.

The logical consequence of a concerted non-reforming effort would be eventual recognition of related failure rates and if the failure rate were to be significant and relatively constant, further data could then be gathered which would allow more accurate assessment of whether or not initial reforming was effective over the long term. There is always the possibility that gradual reforming of new caps will only delay the failure of a defective one until it is already in the client's hands, which to me would seem like the worst possible time.

Mike

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: Tim David (timw.david@amd.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 2:05 PM			
Subject: Re: Wierd noise			

Points well takin.

As far as a speaker problem, it's highly unlikely. I have 2 different speakers. One I just bought. Have looked at mechanical noise. I did find a vibration on the cover of the power tran. Tighten the bolts and it stopped. I've got a 1 10" mini marshall cab coming in the mail today. I'm going to hook that up without the champ speaker and see how that sounds. That would eliminate and vibration in the Champ itself.

I've found the overtone is the easiest to hear if I play the high E string 10th fret and the B string at the 12th fret together. It's a faint tone about half the volume as the original. Kind of a hum at a slightly lower frequency than the original note. The amp is only on 4. I have just straight guitar and amp. When I use my Rat it really destroys the tone.

Maybe I try taking my amp to work and check for ripple with an Oscope

Tim

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: Tom Brown (legba@bga.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 4:06 PM			
Subject: Re: Wierd noise			

Tim,

Are the speakers you're using WeberVST's? I've had trouble with Weber speakers either because they were defective out of the box (rubbing voice coil) or because they just needed to be broken in. Some of the problems I had sound like what you're describing. I don't know if I happened to get a batch from a "dark period" in Weber's history, but I got 4 defective 10" speakers from him out of 4 ordered. I've read a few other comments on the net that suggest that others have had similar problems.

PS I work for AMD also... are you in Austin or Sunnyvale?

-Tom Brown

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: Tim David (timw.david@amd.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 6:43 PM			
Subject: Re: Wierd noise			

I'm in Austin.

Well I bought a Jensen Reissue 4 ohm from a shop on Anderson lane. I was thinking it could be the speaker so I put my old one back in. It's a 8 ohm Radio Shack speaker with about 70-15K range. I know, "Radio Shack" ha ha ha! Acually the thing doesn't sound that bad. I recently seen someone selling them on Ebay as Champ replacement speakers. It's the one with the funny looking extended cone. Anyways, I've had it in there for 5 years and it sounded good. So at the

same time I did the bypass caps, power resistors and power tube, I also got the Jensen so it would be politically correct and have a 4 ohm load. Then 2 weeks later I noticed the problem. I'm not sure but it may have been a problem from the start because something was irritating but it was 2 weeks before I noticed exactly what it was. So then I went back to my original speaker and believe it or not it's actually more noticeable with the old speaker. I still haven't totally ruled out something loose on the chassis or cabinet.

Here's a thought. The replacement bypass caps I got from Hoffman amps are a physical smaller size and newer type than the originals. Of course they are the same values but have better voltage rating. Could these be affecting something? I've read that since they are not in the signal path they wouldn't alter the tone as couple caps would.

Thx
Tim

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: MBSetzer (QualityAna@aol.com)			
Date: 3/5/2001 7:59 PM			
Subject: Re: Wierd noise			

Hi Tim:

well this is a '65 BFVC, the serial number of mine is A079XX, how close is yours? Could be from the same batch.

Mine has the original Sprague can, the only way I can imagine it still surviving is due to initial superiority over the equivalent Mallory cans in the SF version, plus it has been my main amp for many of the years since I bought it in 1981, so it has been played regularly and the caps have had plenty of reforming if they ever had time to deteriorate to begin with.

Change the can, it will help if not completely solve this noise. Even if it does not completely cure it, the final solution will not be possible until this is accomplished first anyway. To me a complete cap job on a Champ starts with just this, then play and repeat the playing process before considering changing the cathode bypass cap on the 6V6 next. That may only take an hour or two to decide. With a fresh can and the amp well warmed up, (in a quiet room) get used to playing with the volume about *5*, then disconnect the cap (the volume will be lower) and repeat the licks, increasing the volume to the same level you were hearing before. If it sounds better without the 6V6 cap, it needs to be replaced. Then if you have to replace that cathode cap, consider upgrading to a 50VDC or better rating, the 25V original is marginal for the BF and usually inadequate in the SF due to their higher voltages. A good replacement here is to put the effort into (finding &) using a non-polarized film type cap like the better Champs originally had in this position. A regular aluminum electrolytic 25mf/25VDC brand new might not sound as

good as a slightly compromised original non-electrolytic cap in this position. While you're at it check the ohms on the 470ohm resistor, I like mine real close to 470, if yours needs replacement upgrade to same value in 2Watt size like the SF had stock, the BF original 1Watt size was somewhat inadequate and under stress.

Then the playing process should be repeated at least a few times for half-dozen to a dozen hours before comparing to a known outstanding Champ of similar vintage to see if any more cap improvement is possible. Not likely except the *irreplaceable* white Mallory bypass caps on the preamp cathodes might have drifted into undesirable values, although its about a 50:50 chance they might have drifted to more toneful capacitances than blueprint values, there was always a wide tolerance for higher value electrolytic caps, but these are dry solid tantalums so age limitations due to liquid electrolyte or conventional reforming do not apply. If needed, the modern small solid tantalums are the closest thing now made, observe polarity. I would very carefully remove the old one(s) if necessary since even if they are way low compared to a new substitute, you might still like the tone better and want to reinstall the old ones. If you want the most pleasing tone this amp can give you need to put a lot of effort into playing it enough to develop the familiarity to be able to tell for sure whether a replaced part is audible. Just because a part is new doesn't mean its better or as good tonally as a functional old part. The rest of the caps are even more age-resistant, although some defect or damage might have occurred, I would only replace a proven bad one since zero of these are likely to be bad. A *Sprague* Orange Drop having the closest value is the common replacement and their tone is good but not quite the same as the original. An electrically sound way to rapidly lose the unique voice of the only Class A Fender of its time (almost all time since '65) is to replace all the caps in the amp with brand new commonly available caps, expensive or not. The can is the only one that actually does not play a role in conducting your signal since it is *just a power supply filter cap*, you would still hear a difference between crummy and good filters, but the impact of the other caps is way more influential on your tone.

The SF used 40/20/20 in place of your 20/20/20 without any problem, you do get a little better bass & punch with 40. What do you expect from an 8inch speaker though. If you get a 20/20/20/20 you could try it either way by putting two of the 20's in parallel like Fender did on some SilverFace Champs with 4-section cans. Then you can hear the difference yourself and use only three sections if you like it better or want to be strictly vintage. I wouldn't worry about stressing your 5Y3 with 40mf on the first section in place of the 20, its been proven for decades to be a non-issue in these amps.

For some real vintage info about caps & electrolyte try:

http://www.faradnet.com/deeley/book_toc.htm

I think one of the excellent surfer dudes here on Ampage posted that not too long ago, I love this stuff, some Ampagers already know my interest in liquid-state devices goes beyond passive components as well. Some locals even think I'm a productive electrochemist, ha ha. That doesn't mean I have the answer to the reforming controversy, but I think if you read the whole Faradnet

book you will get enough background to figure out whether it is worth any of your time and effort to reform and when. Keep in mind they were only telling you the common-knowledge out-of-date procedure in making caps at the time, most of the good stuff was confidential, plus this was an old book. The advances since then have been significant, and my opinion is that large investments have been competitively made by more than one company to extend the shelf-life of liquid electrolytics dramatically since your amp was built. The early '80's NOS Sprague Powerlytics I have been recently trying have all performed as new with a brief 15 minute ramp-up to working voltage. Mostly laboratory instrument replacement of power supply caps running warm to begin with, but a few with tube type voltages that I have listened to and they are fine. Its the heat that kills them faster than anything.

Anyway, if you turn out to visit Houston, you could see my lab and compare your amp to mine, among my amps, this is the only one I consider a reference instrument.

Hope this helps,
Mike

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: Aharon			
Date: 3/5/2001 10:23 PM			
Subject: Re: Wierd noise			

You know what the sad thing is,somebody(not coming down on you Tim)asks a question that could have 1000 answers like "my amp is making a weird noise" and they get hundreds of hits and the thread goes on forever,I ask simple concise questions and I get nothing and my projects languish on the table for days.I do get some answers from the same kind people an I thank them everytime but nothing like the action that bar brawl got.Most of you say you come here to relax and learn and those who have it,to spread knowledge.I don't think I learned anything from that exchange except a somewhat good psychological profile on a few of you.The subject of discussion is at best subjective at worst voodoo.By the way I did not agree with the analogy of burning caps and breaking-in cars,I would've preffer the foreplay analogy but hey,don't wanna start another fight.Lighten up.Cheers,AC.

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
From: Cap'nCrunch			
Date: 3/5/2001 10:43 PM			
Subject: Re: Wierd noise			

That's the beauty of the system. You don't have to agree. As far as what I've read, the subject does remain in the realm of voodoo and hocus-pocus. End of discussion for me. Let's move on,

gentlemen.

Frank

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
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From: Casey4s (Casey4s@yahoo.com)

Date: 3/6/2001 3:48 AM

Subject: Re: Wierd noise

Mike,

Thanx for posting that link. Although I haven't had time to read the whole thing yet that is some great information.

Casey4s

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
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From: Chris B (bradaack@cs.com)

Date: 3/6/2001 6:24 AM

Subject: Re: Wierd noise

Don't want to start another brawl, but I think that changing the filter cap is un-necessary unless it just dosen't work, but I've been wrong before. I replaced all of the coupling caps in my '65 Silvertone 1482 and noticed a world of differance in the tone, it's way better than before. I didn't change the filter cap. Also my '61 Princeton has the original filter cap, and is still going strong, with great tone, too. This is just my opinion. I'm not saying that my way is the only way! 😊

Chris B

START NEW THREAD	REPLY	PREVIOUS	LIST
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From: Rebel420 (giorfida@drifteramps.com)

Date: 3/6/2001 2:32 PM

Subject: Re: Wierd noise

I replaced all of the coupling caps in my '65 Silvertone 1482 and noticed a world of differance in the tone, it's way better than before.

Did it have those green torpedo "sagamo" caps? Those things are just about as bad as the mustard caps in the old marshalls... I've yet to open an amp up that was over 20 yrs old that had

either of these caps in, that at least one or more caps wasn't leaky.. not to mention, real 'blurry' in the high end dept.

[START NEW
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[REPLY](#)

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[LIST](#)

From: Chris B (bradaack@cs.com)

Date: 3/6/2001 2:36 PM

Subject: Re: Wierd noise

Yes, it had the green caps in it and a few were leaky. I replaced them with orange drops. It made a profound differance!

Chris B
