

An update.....

Okay, I can't help use the Valvetech as a bench mark as that is what I have been using. The Valvetech has the exact same speaker (Eminence - Red Fang, but now with 12months break in).

Your amp has already smoothed up a little from a bit of use - long into the night !!

I have quite a few spare valves from experimenting with past amps....so what do you do with a new toy....experiment !!

I found that JJ's in all positions - 12AX7 and EL84 (but not the EF86) is more to my taste - softened the attack by just a fraction. I also settled on the GZ34 rectifier.

The amp was good but as I pushed the front end with a few low gain overdrives it got progressively brighter and harsher. The Valvetech also does this but very slightly.

I checked the bright cap and it was 100pf. In the absence of having a 68pf cap I simply removed it.

So I have put in JJ's and removed the bright cap and your amp (for my taste) is ROCKING ROCKING !!!!

I also made up a very short patch lead to link the channels. By plugging into the low gain of Channel 1 and patching from the high gain of Channel 1 into the high gain of Channel 2..... I think that sounds best to me - when using the amp clean and driving it with pedals.

Using the amp with the channels linked has the most superb clean and has sooo many tweaking options by adjusting the eq on both channels. At the moment I have the Top Boost channel set for a nice, warmish open, clean sound that loves being pushed with overdrive pedals and I have set the second EF86 channel very warm and by adding some of this channel - the sound thickens up and has more harmonic content and this is a fantastic, rich, full, clean sound that stays very open even though it is a little darker - no hint of a wet blanket over the speaker here!!!!

Adding pedals to this sound is also excellent, as long as I don't layer too many pedals, as the sound can get so harmonically rich it gets a harder to get note definition.

I think your amp sounds a little better (for my taste) than the Valvetech, and is more flexible.

This is high praise as I came across a forum last night talking about Vox style amps and three people chimed in to say that their Valvetech "Hayseed" amps are identical sounding compared to their vintage JMI mid 60's Vox AC30s.

My Valvetech has slightly more of a warm "Bassman" vibe to the low end and has an acoustic openness to the mids and top end. It is a beautiful sounding amp, especially clean.

Yours has slightly more of the Vox honk in the mids but is a thicker richer sound that still retains most of the openness and is a little more pedal friendly and more versatile.

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Did I mention I'm loving your amp !!!

Thanks for everything