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Subject: Tubes for Atomic Reactor guitar amp  
Posted by [Wayne](#) on Mon, 21 Jul 2008 21:56:54 GMT  
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Hi gang,

I'm looking for recommendations on tube brands for my guitar amp.

I use the Atomic Reactor AR112-50. This is a modeling amp with a tuned speaker and cabinet. No preamp section. The POD is the preamp. This amp is designed to be neutral in tone so that any digital amp/cabinet modeling scenario in the POD or floorboard is accurately reproduced and warm'd with tubes. The POD plugs directly in the power amp. It has two 6L6GC for power and a 12AX7 (phase inverter).

Is there a difference between a 6L6GC and a premium JJ 6L6?  
Is there a difference between a 12AX7 and a 12AX7A?  
Any recommendation on a brand for mid/top quality clear and clean neutral tone? The 6L6 should be a matched set.

I use the Line6 Variax guitar and use Tele, Strat, LP and acoustic models. The LesPaul and acoustic models carry a lot of low mids and I notice the amp seems to break up when I pick or strum the 3 low strings when at stage volume. The tubes have 1-1/2 years on them and roughly 500 hours of use.

On a slightly off topic, does the feedback sounds or tones come from the POD or is it a function of the amp's phase inverter and power tubes? I always thought that it was a function of the guitar pickups and the sound from the speakers being reinserted back into the guitar pickup. But the Variax has a strange pickup. The pickup is in the bridge (where the string actually touches, much like acoustics) yet I am able to turn towards the amp and still get the traditional feedback loop thing going on. I don't get it. Is it possible to continue to get tubes that don't break up but still offer the feedback loop, or is it a compromise?

Any thoughts or recommendations would be appreciated. Sorry for all the questions.

Thanks,  
Wayne  
Paris since '97

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Subject: Re: Tubes for Atomic Reactor guitar amp  
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 22 Jul 2008 15:01:15 GMT  
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I just got the 212 for \$400 from a guy at work. awesome amp. you should

call Tom at Atomic, he would probably have some great advice for you.

john

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Subject: Re: Tubes for Atomic Reactor guitar amp  
Posted by [Wayne](#) on Tue, 22 Jul 2008 16:36:59 GMT  
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John,  
I'm sure the 212 has a huge sound. Although the 112 is rated at 200w it may be the speaker that breaks up a bit with the low strings at stage volume. After all it is a single 12" doing the job.

wayne

"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:4885f63b\$1@linux...

>

> I just got the 212 for \$400 from a guy at work. awesome amp. you should  
> call Tom at Atomic, he would probably have some great advice for you.

>

> john

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Subject: Re: Tubes for Atomic Reactor guitar amp  
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Wed, 23 Jul 2008 11:30:16 GMT  
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That amp should not be breaking up. Are you sure you're not overdriving the Input to it? Crank the amp up full and then slowly turn the output of your POD up to find the point where it breaks up.

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Subject: Re: Tubes for Atomic Reactor guitar amp  
Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 14:20:19 GMT  
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Every individual tube has a slightly different sound..I have a tech who tests my tubes for me,and rates them. I have 30 year old tubes that are great,and new ones that suck...

"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:48871648\$1@linux...

>

> That amp should not be breaking up. Are you sure you're not overdriving  
the

> Input to it? Crank the amp up full and then slowly turn the output of  
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> POD up to find the point where it breaks up.

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Subject: Re: Tubes for Atomic Reactor guitar amp  
Posted by [Wayne](#) on Mon, 28 Jul 2008 20:56:30 GMT  
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Thanks John. I just got back into town and just now getting to the newsgroup. I run the POD full open but have the individual patches back'd off, so this may in fact be what is the problem. I finger pick an acoustic patch which is the quietest so all other patches are balanced with that one. I will try backing off the output level. Thanks for the possible fix.

Wayne

"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:48871648\$1@linux...

>

> That amp should not be breaking up. Are you sure you're not overdriving

> the

> Input to it? Crank the amp up full and then slowly turn the output of

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> POD up to find the point where it breaks up.

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