

Tube of the Month

The 4-1000A Family

Since I was first a ham, I have often heard the story of the problems of Eimac after WWII. The tale always went that Eimac had an agreement with the government that all the triodes that Eimac made for the war effort would not be sold to the public and therefore destroy Eimac's future commercial sales. Hundreds of thousands of Eimac tubes were sold in surplus after the war and the tale followed that Eimac had to scramble to develop a new line of power tetrodes to sell to hams and industry.

The Tube Collectors Assn. has possession of the old production records for Eimac. From this archive, a document we call the "X-Files" has been compiled. This file has developmental numbers and short descriptions of experimental tubes from 1942 until 1960. Each experiment had an "X" number assigned.

I keep hunting for these "X" tubes and have found several. Eimac was working on this tetrode line from at least 1943. The X-246 is an example of the early 4-1000A. The base pins are extra long and there is a circle of small cooling holes in the base. This tube dates from 1944. In 1947, Eimac released the 4-750A. It was soon replaced by the 4-1000A. The 750 and 1000 both have the shape and base structure of all the modern 4-1000A tubes.

It looks like Eimac was planning for post war production well in advance of war's end. Perhaps these hams anticipated the current interest in 160 meter DXing. These tubes along with a pulse rated version, are still in production although not by Eimac.

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