

Tube of the Month
The 300T/450T

About the time I passed my novice test in 1959, my father picked up a copy of the ARRL Handbook for me in Fresno. I wore that book out. I was especially interested in the advertisements. I was totally ignorant of all the parts and tubes that were available. Like many other kids, I started sending off for all the company's free brochures. I found an ad for an interesting tube made by Eimac, but couldn't find any info. I wrote a note to Eimac and never expected to get a reply. I actually received a note from Bill Orr, W6SAI, at Eimac and he informed me that the tube I was interested in was useless for ham work, but it was made in WWII and they didn't have an example in their collection. I was glad to pass the information along. In a few weeks I was surprised to receive a big box in the mail. It was a used 450TH triode for "my rig" from Orr. After 56 years I still have it. A bit large for my novice 75 watt rig.

Many years later, I learned more about this family of tubes. In 1936 Eimac developed a larger version of their popular 150T tube. It was designated the 300T. It seems that Eimac was willing to make special versions of this tube as there are examples with flexible leads instead of caps. Eventually it was re-named the 450T with the "Hi" and "Lo" versions. During WWII, the designations 450TH and TL were first used. The 450TH was very popular with hams and the maritime industry. I have seen several of the Mackay transmitters that used the 450TH and W6AM had a few of these rigs for his contest station.

The first tube is a 300T with flex leads and the second is a later 450TH.

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Norm N6JV

