

Tube of the Month

GU-81M, ГY-81M

The Russians were famous for copying captured technology in WWII. Some of the things they liked has sometimes confused me. One odd German tetrode was RS384. It had the strangest and most unique base. I could never see why they would come up with a base that required the tube to be slid in sideways. They must have had an application where they had no headroom to cram it in. It would seem that the Russians had a similar problem as they made a shorter version of the RS384 and called it the GU-81 and later the GU-81M.

Last month I finally saw what the socket for this tube looked like. The glass in the base has a “V” shaped ridge down the middle that slides into the base and lines up the pins. To keep the tube from falling out, there is a latch on the side like I remember from an outhouse door. In typical Russian construction, the inner surfaces were very clean and smooth where they needed to be, but the outer surface is very rough as the aluminum is all sand cast. They didn't need to make it pretty.

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