

## Tube Of The Month

### HK-354

In 1934, lots of things were happening in the transmitting tube world. The overturn of RCA's monopoly was making opportunities for several companies. EIMAC had split from Heintz & Kaufman and H&K was now looking to start selling to the public. They needed something to compete with EIMAC. The HK-354 was a well-designed tube with a dissipation of 150 watts and had a grid. The prototype for this tube was made after hours by W6UF and W6CHE for CHE's ham rig. H&K's reluctance to aggressively market the 354 prompted the formation of Eimac. H&K no longer had to make the Gridless Gammatrons. Three wide spaced anode supports made the tube very rugged. Eventually the success with the 354 prompted H&K to expand the options. If you wanted to use the tube in high frequency work, it could be purchased with a side grid terminal. Eventually they made it with your choice of amplification factor. The original had a mu of 14, but now it was also offered in 9.5, 22, 35 and 50. Each variation was assigned a suffix from A to F. I have found an obscure advertisement that offered to mix and match the features. You could get a 354-F with or without a side grid pin. It keeps tube collectors looking for all the variations. More photos at <http://n6jv.com>.

