

Tube of the Month

UV814

The common American made 814 tube has a small base with 5 long pins. This is often referred to as a “UY” base configuration. Another tube occasionally turns up that has a large 4 pin base with short pins. In the U.S. this would be called a “50 watter” and early versions of it would have the prefix “UV”. This tube is a UV814 and was made for many years after the U.S. tubes had dropped the UV prefix. The UV814 is a tetrode originally made for the Japanese military. It seems to have been made in large numbers as it was used as the driver tube in a standard Army transmitter.

The UV814 is a beautiful tube with a knurled nut to attach the plate wire. This type of plate connection is a common feature found on German and other European tubes. The screen grid is extra-long and is similar to the screens used in the 860 tubes of U.S. and Japanese manufacture. It is obvious that the Japanese were incorporating construction features from anyone who had a good idea. This example was made by Tokyo Electric during WWII. Tokyo Electric would eventually become the Toshiba of today.

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