

## Tube of the Month

# UV815

The “UV” prefix on a tube was first used in the US to indicate that it had short pins. The “UX” tubes had long ones. The 815 was a common RCA tube from the 1940s, but used an octal socket. The UV815 was something different. In Japan before WWII, some tubes were clones of US types and others were all Japanese design. They adopted the use of the UV prefix, but numbered their tubes independently.

During WWII, there were units in the field charged with collecting anything Japanese after a battle. There were intelligence units and all the things they found was shipped to the US for analysis. A book was published in 1944 describing this information including all the radio gear. From what I have been told, there was a large warehouse in Ohio containing all this captured radio gear. When the War ended, the place was abandoned. Local Hams were permitted to go shopping inside. More tubes and equipment were picked up all over the Pacific. People are still finding things today.

When I saw an advertisement for a UV815, I had no idea what it was, but recognized that it had to be Japanese because of the UV. It was located in Hawaii and survived the shipping to California. A search of published lists and web sites in Japan were of no use. The Japanese seemed not to know its history. A tube collector, who works at a University, found a report in some old files that describes the use of a pair of UV815s in a Japanese Army, 1 KW transmitter in 1939. I have never found additional photos. The UV815 is a tetrode and stands 18.25 inches high. I imagine very few of these tubes survived the war and would love to find out where it was found.

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Norm N6JV

