

## Tube of the Month

### X-2159



Among collectors, there is always a competition to have something that is older, more valuable or larger than the other guy. It is a "mine is bigger than yours" type of rivalry. In tube collecting, the X2159 or 8974 fits into this category. Eimac developed this power tetrode in about 1973. At a dissipation of 1.5 million watts it has an output of 2.15 million watts in class C. If you want to be the biggest gun on 20 meters, this tube is for you. Before you call Eimac, you might take a closer look at the power requirements. The filament takes 16.3 volts at 600 amps (that's 10,000 watts) to light it. The power supply will need to supply 22,500 volts at 125 amps. Your old amplifier won't drive it since it takes 7000 watts input. Then there is the cooling. The water lines are 2.25 inches in diameter and even the filament has water-cooled leads. A forklift is always a good idea, as it weighs 175 pounds. Continental Electronics uses two of these tubes in their 1 and 2 million watt AM broadcast stations if you don't like to homebrew.

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