

# Valve Studio – Guitar Pentode Pre-Amp – Part 1

## Review Project Goal

- RCA RS-175A Record Player Guitar Amp Mod
- Blencowe, Designing Preamps for Guitar and Bass

## Biasing

- Plate Characteristic
- Transfer Characteristic

## Distortion

- Dynamic Characteristic
- Harmonic
- Intermodulation

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## Analog Discovery 2

- Test circuit
  - THD
  - IMD

## Performance

- Measurement by equipment
- Analysis by ear

# Valve Studio – Guitar Pentode Pre-Amp – Part 1a – Biasing – Intermodulation Distortion

## Discussion

### Traditional Biasing

#### Transfer Characteristic

6AU6 Pentode – GE - <https://frank.pocnet.net/sheets/093/6/6AU6A.pdf>

## Distortion

### Harmonic Distortion

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total\\_harmonic\\_distortion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_harmonic_distortion)

### Intermodulation Distortion

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intermodulation>

## Operating Point

K=0.56, RDH3 Dynamic Characteristic, Chapter 34, p272

RDH4 Resistance-Capacitance Coupled Pentode, Section 3/12.3, p496

The optimum value of K, Section 3/12.3, p504

Maximum voltage output and distortion, Section 3/12.3ix, p510

## Dynamic Characteristic

The Choice of Operating Conditions for Resistance-Capacitance-Coupled Pentodes

Radiotronics July 1948, Langford-Smith

[https://frank.pocnet.net/other/AWV\\_Radiotronics/Radiotronics\\_1948/1948\\_07\\_AWV\\_Radiotronics\\_132.pdf](https://frank.pocnet.net/other/AWV_Radiotronics/Radiotronics_1948/1948_07_AWV_Radiotronics_132.pdf)

## Dynamic Characteristics of Pentodes

Communications July 1946, Haefner

[http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Communications\\_Master\\_Page.htm](http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Communications_Master_Page.htm)

## Measurement

Cohen 3-4 Ratio A method of measuring distortion products

## Valve Studio – Guitar Pentode Pre-Amp – Part 1b – AD2 – Distortion

### Experiment

- Harmonic Distortion

  - AOUT1 custom function

- Intermodulation

  - AOUT1 custom function

- Use AD2 python API

- Calculate IMD - done

  - <http://www.testips.com/imd.php>

  - <https://github.com/awesomebytes/libermate>

  - imd.py

### Future Plans

- Build AD2 test fixture to re-create curves of Langford-Smith Radiotronics 132

  - Need to measure IMD, show AD2 addon

- Measure results

  - Equipment

  - Ear

- Have fun!