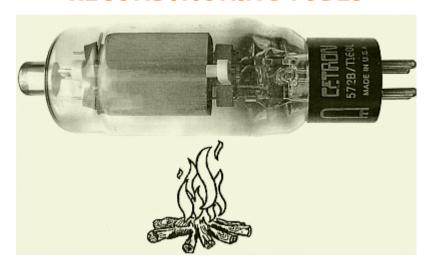
RECONDITIONING TUBES



EMISSION



Deforming of the anode due to inefficient cooling.

The filament of a tube with either directly or indirectly heated cathode emits a flow of electrons, which depends on the voltage on the anode and grids. Even if the tube is cut-off electrons are emitted. This is a continuous process that ends when the cathode is "exhausted". In a tube having a directly heated cathode, the emission gradually decreases, the tube becomes "soft". Emissions of an indirectly heated tube can drop quite suddenly and is often accompanied by an increase of arcing (flashover). Furthermore, the filament suffers the most from switching because the warming up caused more damage than standby. Therefore, in a broadcasting transmitter the filaments are not switched off after the end of a transmission. Does not switch off the filaments if you using a PA at different times a day, then a tube will last an amateur lifetime.

In general, the most wear is due to overload (overdrive) and insufficient cooling. Excessive ventilation is better than poor cooling. Overheating (fig») the tube (seals) can damage the gas density of metal with glass or ceramic compounds. Also a heavy inrush current causes a too rapid expansion of the metal causing permanent damage.

Probably you also always keep a few spare tubes in stock. Why? You know the practice, if one get rid of spare tubes probably the next day the PA's tube is broken (according to Murphy's law). It is wise to use the spare tubes once a year to stabilise the state of cathode and vacuum. A tube is never absolutely gas-tight. In the course of time, molecular particles sliding along the pins into the tube. Therefore combinations of substances (getter) are added to cure, but the longer the spare tube is unused the more the vacuum will be polluted, one sees a bluish glow close to the anode if the tube is in action.

REACTIVATING OR RECONDITIONING A TUBE

To prevent arcing in a new or long time unused tube, it is wise to prepare (reactivate) for his task. It should "initiated" by heating or "degassing" in order to optimise cathode and vacuum. Residue of gas is removed or absorbed, and the cathode regains its optimal emission. If that is omitted, there is a greater risk of spark-over (flashover) between anode and other internal connections. That may be a (permanent) damage to cathode, filament and grids. Damage to a tube can also be the cause of arcing and decreased transmitting power.

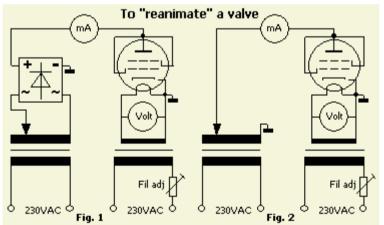
The reactivation is the easiest by heating in the amplifier. Disconnect the anode voltage and heat the tube for about one hour with the filaments on and put the fan off. Note: many ceramic tubes are overheated with the fan "off".

Reconnect anode HV, activate the fan and get the tube to draw the specified idling current while holding down the PTT switch. Then leave to stand for at least an hour. To prevent any oscillation during the process, the output should be connected to a dummy load. After this treatment and if everything remains stable the drive may gradually be increased to the specified value or to the maximum anode current. So if one think a tube is worn or "useless" do not throw away, see fig»!



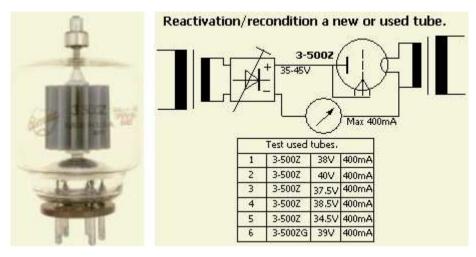
Still works well despite the black color!

ANOTHER METHOD OF RECONDITIONING

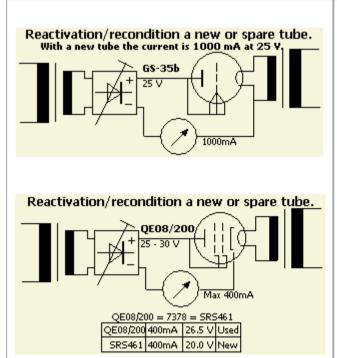


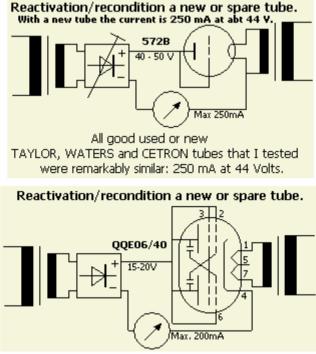
On the Internet you can find all kinds of complex, colourful, cumbersome and lengthy procedures to achieve the same result, but try this old fashioned method: Get a socket, heater transformer, mAmeter and a variable DC supply. Connect the filament and connect all grids to the anode. Note: the tube is temporarily used as diode so that the required anode current is obtained with low DC voltage. Heat the tube for one hour with only the filament voltage on. Then apply DC, set the voltage and see if any current flows gently adjust the voltage for maximum allowable anode current.

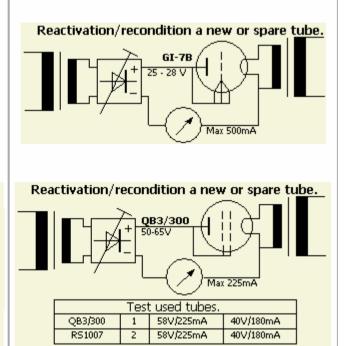
VARIOUS TUBES

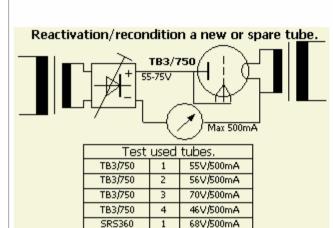


The reconditioning of a 3-500Z is relatively simple. With a DC voltage 0 - 40 V you should be able to get around 400 mA anode current with maximum 40 V DC on the anode. Apply 4.9 V to the filament and "cook" the tube for an hour. Then connect the variable supply and adjust DC for 400 mA anode current the process must be maintained until for example a stable 38 V/400 mA is obtained.

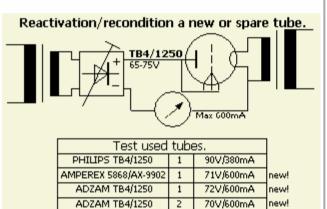




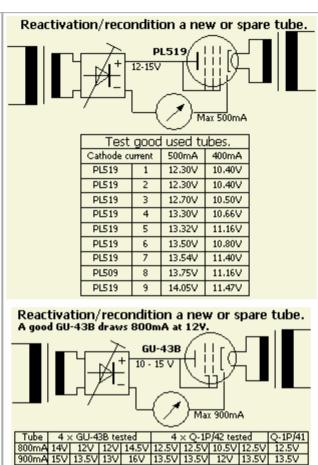


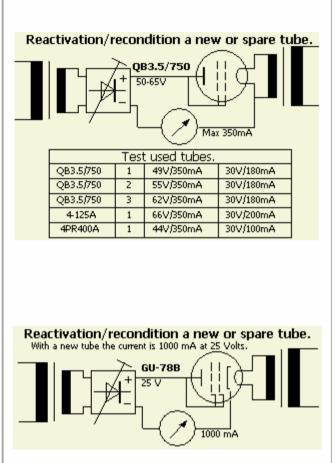


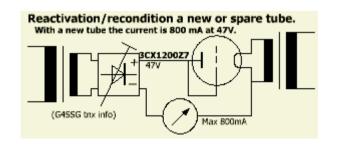
SRS360

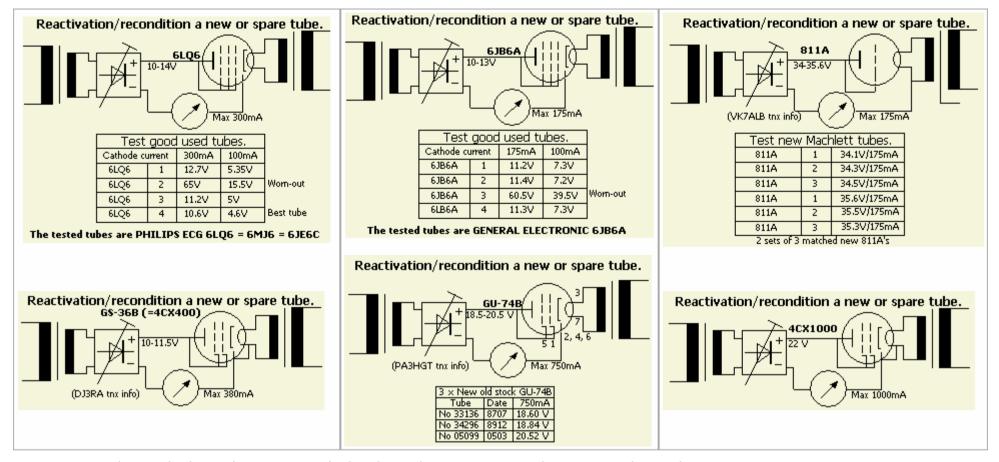


73V/500mA









To compare you need a good tube to determine at which voltage the maximum anode current is obtained.

A tube is not cooled unless the manufacturer requires that its product (eg ceramic tube) must be cooled as the filament is on. Eventually use a fan for the seals to prevent over heating. If a tube is new or for a long time unused, the current will gradually increase so that the voltage had to be decreased. Actually the fixture should be permanently monitored because it is possible that the current suddenly jumps to a higher value, a sign that the tube becomes "better". If for a period of a couple of hours the anode current remains stable at a particular voltage for example GU-43B: 12 V/800 mA, then the reactivation may be terminated.

One may extend the reconditioning, my experience is that after 2 - 5 hours the process can be stopped because the tube is worn out but it's worth a try.

SOME TUBES TESTED IN RF AMPLIFIER

In my home made PA I have tested some of my tubes and borrowed ones. The driving power (Pi) was respectively 10-, 50- and 100 W. At each step, the output power (Po), grid current (Ig) and anode current (Ia) was listed at an anode voltage of 2500 V and 1700 V. Please note that some tubes are overloaded as experiment. **See tables, below**

All measurements were carried out under the same conditions as much as possible. There is no account of up to 10 V changes of the supply voltage. A DAIWA CN101-L power meter was calibrated in two ranges 100 W and 400 W at 14.2 MHz. On 10 and 160 m bands, the meter indication was less than the reality, but the corresponding values are listed in the tables.

SAFETY



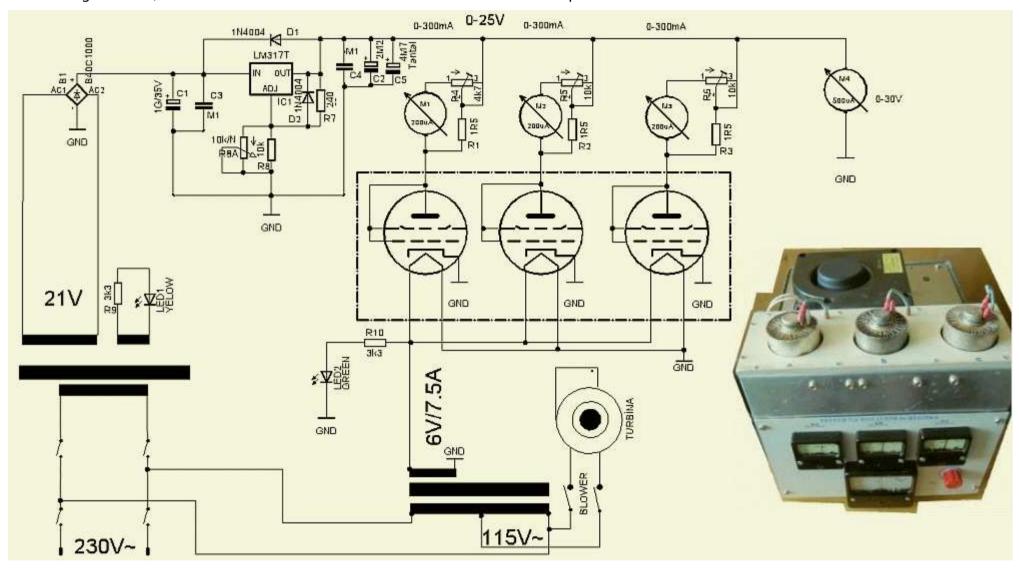
Be careful, prevention is better than cure.

ON4JMV wrote: "a GU-43B was modified according to your instructions. The tube was not used for a long period of time. I wanted a degassing process during the night with filament and anode voltages on. The next morning I saw that a fuse of the mains fuse box was blown. I replaced a new fuse and the PA started up normally, but after a few seconds I heard a strange stronger becoming hum, immediately I realised that the high voltage transformer was burning out! There was some smoke and happily my camera was on hand so I took in a reflex a few pictures. During the third shot the transformer was on fire. The worst thing was that fuse of the mains fuse box did not blow. This could happen at night with dangerous and annoying consequences.

NEVER OR NEVER leave an operating device unattended. One can not always be as lucky or how a hobby could turn into a nightmare. "So beware, be careful!

OK1AMF

For reactivating his tubes, OK1AMF has taken the trouble to make an extensive test setup.



Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		Pi = 100W			
Ig/Ia = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	
160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	
6155	45	095	050	160	230	280	225	295	400	
QB3/300	40	100	055	150	235	290	220	285	400	
QB3/200	25	105	060	100	240	300	140	290	400	
TB2.5/300	05	095	050	015	230	280	020	275	380	
4-250A	35	130	060	130	300	310	180	400	420	
QB3.5/750	35	170	095	145	370	400	205	460	520	
4PR400A	55	160	090	230	340	360	350	425	490	
QB4/1100	45	145	105	145	300	410	195	385	540	
R\$686	40	145	105	150	315	400	225	390	540	
TB3/750	00	170	095	045	390	450	100	490	610	

Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		Pi = 100W			
Ig/la = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Po	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	
80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	
6155	45	090	075	170	200	330	230	275	450	
QB3/300	40	090	075	160	205	340	210	280	460	
QB3/200	25	105	095	120	215	360	140	290	490	
TB2.5/300	05	090	075	025	205	360	030	275	490	
4-250A	35	125	095	140	280	380	180	380	510	
QB3.5/750	35	165	125	150	350	460	210	450	610	
4PR400A	55	150	120	235	310	410	320	400	560	
QB4/1100	45	135	145	145	285	490	190	350	610	
RS686	40	135	150	145	295	480	215	360	610	
TB3/750	00	160	120	045	370	520	080	490	720	

Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		Pi = 100W			
Ig/Ia = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Po	lg	la	Po	
40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	
6155	40	090	068	150	200	330	210	260	440	
QB3/300	40	090	070	145	205	330	205	265	450	
QB3/200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TB2.5/300	05	085	070	020	205	360	030	275	490	
4-250A	35	125	085	135	270	370	175	375	500	
QB3750	35	160	125	150	340	460	210	435	610	
4PR400A	55	150	115	220	315	410	325	390	560	
QB4/1100	40	130	135	130	285	480	190	350	610	
RS686	35	135	135	150	280	460	220	350	620	
TB3/750	00	155	110	040	350	510	080	470	710	

Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		Pi = 100W			
Ig/Ia = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Po	
30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	
6155	40	085	085	140	195	320	205	255	430	
QB3/300	40	085	095	145	190	320	200	260	430	
QB3/200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TB2.5/300	05	070	070	025	205	360	030	270	490	
4-250A	35	115	115	135	280	380	170	355	490	
QB3.5/750	40	150	150	140	350	460	205	430	590	
4PR400A	55	150	130	225	315	420	325	390	560	
QB4/1100	45	120	170	125	290	460	190	340	600	
RS686	40	120	155	140	280	460	200	355	620	
TB3/750	00	150	120	045	355	520	075	460	710	

Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		Pi = 100W			
Ig/Ia = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Po	lg	la	Po	lg	la	Po	
20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	
6155	45	080	105	150	200	330	210	270	50	
QB3/300	45	080	105	150	195	330	200	265	450	
QB3/200	30	085	115	095	210	350	135	270	450	
TB2.5/300	05	070	085	025	200	360	030	260	470	
4-250A	35	115	115	125	280	360	175	360	490	
QB3.5/750	35	150	115	140	340	400	200	420	520	
4PR400A	55	135	135	220	305	410	325	390	540	
QB4/1100	45	120	170	125	290	460	185	355	600	
RS686	40	125	155	145	280	470	210	365	620	
TB3/750	00	150	120	035	375	510	080	480	720	

TB2.5/300 = 5866, AX7986, SRS361. TB2.5/400 = 7986, RS1006B.

TB3/750 = 5867(A), CV1350, TGL9461, RS630, RS1026, SRS360. QB3/200 = 8165, 4-65A.

QB3/300 = CV2130,6155, 4-125A, 4D21,QY3-125, RS1007, RS685, SRS455.

QB3.5/750 = 6156, CV2131, SRS465, QY4-250, 4-250A, Jan 5D22.

QB4/1100 = 7527, 4-400A, RE400C, 4PR400A, 8188, RS1002A, RS686.

Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W		F	Pi = 50W	ı	Pi = 100W			
Ig/Ia = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Po	
17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	
6155	45	075	100	140	195	320	205	260	430	
QB3/300	40	080	100	140	195	320	195	260	420	
QB2/300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TB2.5/300	05	070	75	025	190	340	030	250	430	
4-250A	35	110	110	130	270	340	165	365	450	
QB3.5/750	40	145	135	145	335	420	205	410	540	
4PR400A	60	140	140	210	320	400	300	405	520	
QB4/1100	45	120	155	125	285	430	180	350	580	
RS686	40	115	160	145	275	460	215	355	610	
TB3/750	00	145	115	035	365	500	070	475	690	

Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W		F	Pi = 50V	ı	Pi = 100W			
Ig/la = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Po	
15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	
6155	45	080	095	145	200	310	205	270	430	
QB3/300	45	080	095	140	200	310	195	265	420	
QB3/200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TB2.5/300	05	070	075	025	195	330	030	240	420	
4-250A	35	120	100	130	275	320	170	370	420	
QB3.5/750	40	145	125	140	395	410	200	425	520	
4PR400A	60	130	135	200	320	380	300	400	500	
QB4/1100	45	120	150	135	280	420	200	350	560	
RS686	40	120	155	145	280	440	215	360	600	
TB3/750	00	150	110	030	365	480	075	460	680	

Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W		F	Pi = 50W	ı	Pi = 100W			
Ig/Ia = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Po	
12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	
6155	45	070	085	135	200	310	205	265	410	
QB3/300	40	075	090	135	205	300	190	265	400	
QB2/300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TB2.5/300	05	070	070	025	190	320	030	250	410	
4-250A	35	105	100	120	270	310	155	360	410	
QB3.5/750	25	160	040	100	370	200	140	470	300	
4PR400A	65	125	130	205	310	380	300	390	490	
QB4/1100	40	125	135	130	275	400	170	360	540	
RS686	40	110	145	135	275	420	205	355	590	
TB3/750	00	145	105	035	345	460	070	455	640	

Ua = 2500V		Pi = 10W		F	Pi = 50V	ı	Pi = 100W			
Ig/la = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	
10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	
6155	45	075	100	145	200	320	210	270	430	
QB3/300	40	085	100	145	200	320	200	275	430	
QB3/200	25	090	095	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TB2.5/300	05	080	065	025	185	320	030	260	410	
4-250A	35	115	110	130	260	310	180	350	400	
QB3.5/750	30	155	105	140	335	400	205	420	520	
4PR400A	50	150	110	210	315	380	295	400	490	
QB4/1100	45	125	135	125	290	400	190	365	550	
R\$686	35	125	145	135	295	440	210	370	600	
TB3/750	00	150	105	040	340	480	075	450	660	

TB2.5/300 = 5866, AX7986, SRS361. TB2.5/400 = 7986, RS1006B.

TB3/750 = 5867(A), CV1350, TGL9461, RS630, RS1026, SRS360. QB3/200 = 8165, 4-65A.

QB3/300 = CV2130, 6155, 4-125A, 4D21, QY3-125, RS1007, RS658, SRS455.

QB3.5/750 = 6156, CV2131, SRS465, QY4-250, 4-250A, JAN 5D22.

QB4/1100 = 7527, 4-400A, RE400C, 4PR400A, 8188, RS1002A, RS686.

Ua = 1700V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		Pi = 100W		
Ig/la = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро
160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m	160m
QB3/300	45	100	42	170	250	180	250	310	300
6155	45	100	42	180	255	190	250	310	300
TB2.5/300	6	120	42	24	300	250	36	340	320
RS686	42	140	100	200	320	330	240	390	420
CV2131	42	140	100	165	340	340	255	420	440
QB3.5/750	45	150	100	165	340	340	245	410	440
QY4-250	39	150	100	160	340	340	240	420	440
TB3/750	4	190	120	59	380	410	96	520	560
3-500Z	42	200	160	120	400	420	-	-	-

Ua = 1700V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		Pi = 100W		
80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m	80m
QB3/300	45	100	50	180	220	230	250	290	310
6155	48	100	80	190	230	250	270	300	320
4PR400A	60	130	80	220	270	290	300	310	360
TB2.5/300	8	110	65	40	280	310	57	350	390
R\$686	45	140	100	200	300	330	240	380	420
CV2131	48	160	100	180	300	340	260	400	430
QB3.5/750	51	160	100	180	300	340	260	400	430
QY4-250	41	140	100	180	320	340	240	420	440
TB3/750	7	185	120	73	380	410	106	510	560
3-500Z	45	200	160	120	400	420	200	560	560
QB3/200	29	100	55	126	240	260	-	-	-

Ua = 1700V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		Pi = 100W		
40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m	40m
QB3/300	46	100	50	180	220	240	270	270	320
6155	46	100	50	180	220	250	260	280	320
TB2.5/300	6	110	70	42	270	310	57	350	390
RS686	45	140	100	195	300	330	240	380	420
CV2131	36	140	95	180	310	340	260	400	460
QB3.5/750	45	140	95	180	300	340	260	400	460
QY4-250	39	140	100	160	320	360	240	410	460
TB3/750	5	170	110	70	350	400	101	490	560
3-500Z	60	240	210	120	400	420	-	-	-

Ua = 1700V		Pi = 10W	-		Pi = 50W	-	Pi = 100W		
30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m
QB3/300	60	100	95	200	220	280	280	290	370
6155	60	90	95	190	220	280	280	290	370
TB2.5/300	9	90	105	48	260	350	60	340	430
RS686	60	110	130	195	290	340	260	370	420
CV2131	54	160	130	180	290	360	260	380	480
QB3.5/750	53	120	135	175	300	380	240	380	480
QY4-250	53	110	130	160	300	360	240	390	490
TB3/750	9	150	130	68	350	450	115	470	580
3-500Z	51	180	210	120	400	420	-	-	-

Ua = 1700V		Pi = 10W			Pi = 50W		F	Pi = 100W			
20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m		
QB3/300	53	90	70	190	220	240	280	290	320		
6155	54	90	70	185	220	240	270	300	320		
4PR400A	60	110	90	215	250	260	280	340	330		
TB2.5/300	7	90	70	48	250	300	62	350	380		
RS686	56	120	115	195	300	320	240	380	410		
CV2131	50	120	110	180	320	330	240	410	420		
QB3.5/750	48	130	110	180	320	330	260	410	430		
QY4-250	50	120	115	160	300	330	245	390	490		
TB3/750	6	165	115	68	380	400	102	500	560		
3-500Z	45	180	180	128	400	420	-				
QB3/200	33	90	75	126	230	250	_				

Ua = 1700V		Pi = 10W	ı		Pi = 50W	ı	Pi = 100W			
lg/la = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	
17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	17m	
QB3/300	58	80	80	205	215	245	280	290	320	
6155	57	80	80	190	215	245	290	280	320	
TB2.5/300	7	100	80	45	270	310	69	340	390	
RS686	60	120	115	200	300	330	240	380	410	
CV2131	45	120	110	185	300	330	260	400	420	
QB3.5/750	56	120	120	180	310	330	255	400	420	
QY4-250	48	125	120	165	310	330	240	400	430	
TB3/750	8	160	120	69	370	400	106	480	540	
3-500Z	53	180	180	135	400	400	-	-	-	

Ua = 1700V		Pi = 10W	ı		Pi = 50W	ı	Pi = 100W			
Ig/la = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Ро	
15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	
QB3/300	54	85	75	200	220	240	240	310	310	
6155	58	85	75	200	220	250	290	290	310	
TB2.5/300	7	90	80	42	270	310	61	340	390	
RS686	57	120	115	200	320	330	255	390	400	
CV2131	48	125	110	185	320	330	240	400	420	
QB3.5/750	57	120	120	180	320	330	240	400	420	
QY4-250	45	130	115	200	300	330	240	400	420	
TB3/750	10	160	120	72	360	400	110	480	530	
3-500Z	51	180	180	128	400	400	-	-	-	

Ua = 1700V	ı	Pi = 10W	ı		Pi = 50W	ı	Pi = 100W			
Ig/la = mA, Po = W	lg	la	Ро	lg	la	Po	lg	la	Po	
12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m	
QB3/300	63	100	70	220	260	230	285	320	300	
6155	63	100	70	215	250	240	290	300	300	
TB2.5/300	8	90	70	49	270	290	58	350	360	
RS686	51	140	100	200	310	310	240	400	400	
CV2131	57	120	100	180	320	320	255	420	400	
QB3.5/750	60	120	100	165	330	320	240	440	400	
QY4-250	50	130	110	160	320	320	240	420	410	
TB3/750	9	180	120	74	415	410	112	480	510	
3-500Z	42	170	170	135	400	400	-	-	-	

Ua = 1700V	Pi = 10W			ı	Pi = 50W	ı	Pi = 100W			
10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	10m	
QB3/300	54	90	75	200	205	215	290	290	300	
6155	51	90	70	200	240	240	300	290	310	
4PR400A	62	130	80	220	270	260	270	340	320	
TB2.5/300	6	110	70	45	270	290	63	350	360	
RS686	48	140	100	220	300	330	300	390	400	
CV2131	63	120	100	200	320	310	280	420	400	
QB3.5/750	45	140	90	195	330	330	260	440	430	
QY4-250	50	130	115	180	330	330	255	430	410	
TB3/750	11	160	120	68	405	410	106	500	510	
3-500Z	54	190	180	135	400	400	-			
QB3/200	44	80	70	150	220	230	-			