

This document is intended to be used with the TINA-TI program ([www.ti.com/tool/TINA-TI](http://www.ti.com/tool/TINA-TI)) loaded with the CP-80.TSC spice file from the TINA Spice Files Folder and the 2SK30 N-channel JFET data sheet (located in the “Part Data Sheets” folder).

The main reasons I decided to go through the work of entering the entire schematic into TINA are as follows:

- JFETs have extremely wide parameters (e.g.  $V_{GS}$  can range from -0.4 to -5V and  $I_{DSS}$  can range from 0.3 to 6.5mA) so I wanted to characterize the circuit over this range.
- Certain parts are very difficult to find if they need replacement, such as the 2 audio transformers for the balanced line out. I want to know that my replacements will not alter the original sound.

The schematic drawn in the CP-80 Spice file is a slightly modified version of the actual CP-80 preamp schematic. As you can see, the 3 position Brilliance switch is set up to manually open and close each contact. Additionally, you can see there are 4 options for the 2SK30 JFET. These options cover the 4  $I_{DSS}$  classifications from the data sheet.

Before we continue, we need to talk about JFETs, their extremely wide parameter set (i.e. Very large part to part variations), and a couple of definitions.

$I_{DSS}$  (zero-gate-voltage drain current) is a characteristic that varies between individual devices, even those of the same part number. However, a JFET's characteristics are determined by its  $I_{DSS}$  value, and this value, along with the pinch-off voltage ( $V_{GS(off)}$ ), can be used to classify or group devices for specific applications like voltage-controlled resistors or current sources. Devices are primarily classified by their type, either **N-channel** or **P-channel**, which dictates the polarity of the gate-source voltage required to control the drain current.

How JFETs are classified and characterized

- **Channel Type:** The most fundamental classification is the channel type, which can be either N-channel or P-channel. In our case the only JFETs we use are the 2SK30 N-channel JFET.
  - **N-channel:** Requires a negative gate-source voltage to decrease drain current.
  - **P-channel:** Requires a positive gate-source voltage to decrease drain current.

- **$I_{DSS}$  and  $V_{GS(off)}$ :** Within a channel type, devices can be grouped based on  $I_{DSS}$  and  $V_{GS(off)}$  values, which are measured through testing. When manufacturers do this, it is called binning.
  - **$I_{DSS}$  (Zero-gate-voltage drain current):** The drain-source current when the gate-source voltage ( $V_{GS}$ ) is zero. This is a measure of the maximum current a JFET can conduct at  $V_{GS} = 0$ .
  - **$V_{GS(off)}$  (Pinch-off voltage):** The gate-source voltage required to turn the JFET off (reduce the drain current to near zero).
  - These two parameters are directly related, and a higher  $I_{DSS}$  will have a different corresponding  $V_{GS(off)}$  value than a lower  $I_{DSS}$ .

Applications where  $I_{DSS}$  and  $V_{GS(off)}$  are used for grouping or binning

- **Matching:** Devices can be grouped or "matched" by similar  $I_{DSS}$  and  $V_{GS(off)}$  values for applications where this is critical, such as stereo audio amplifiers or balanced circuits.
- **Current Source:** A JFET with a specific  $I_{DSS}$  can be used to create a current source or sink. By adding a resistor from the source to ground, the current can be set to a specific value, and the  $I_{DSS}$  value of the device can be used to calculate the appropriate resistor value.
- **Voltage Controlled Resistor:** In a voltage-controlled resistor application, the  $I_{DSS}$  value is used in conjunction with  $V_{GS(off)}$  to select devices that have the same "on-resistance" ( $R_{DS(on)}$ ) range.