



Hedge Cascode power amp. 1625 PP, 1956

The 1950's was an intriguing period from the point of view of innovation in audio. I think it is safe to say that during that time the technology of audio kind of matured and many circuits got refined. It was also a period of which engineers and manufactures dared to apply circuits that needed adjustment by the domestic users – in particular during the first half of the 1950's. Circuits such as adjustable damping and AC balance comes to mind. Another issue that describes this fascinating period was far better passive components. C-core transformers was invented providing output transformers that surpassed the old shell types by several octaves. Better reliable resistors and capacitors and so on. Still yet , had the engineers of those days been able to use modern passive components as of today, they would have partied all day long.

The above cascode long tail phase splitter amplifier and driver is a typical example of the skills and imagination carried out by the audio engineers of the 1950's. It was designed by L.B. Hedge and appeared in *Wireless World* , June 1950. There is nothing new in this circuit, but it is never the less interesting and great care would have been needed to tame the 7F7/6SL7 in that application. Apart from that valve nothing is component critical. The output valve may be any of the KT66/6L6/807 family – and this is a very large family indeed. Same goes for the rectifiers, just about any such will plug in here – even solid state. A thing that was impossible to obtain back then was good and large electrolytics. Hence it is not unusual to find paper/oil and metalized paper capacitors, the major compromise here being the relative small capacitance related to these. Good capacitors, potentiometers and transformers were extremely expensive in those good ol' days.

This is definitely a circuit worth for experiments. Any OPT suitable for 6L6G/KT66 will do.