



Loftin & White, 1929.

These early Joes; Loftin and Whites was the first to get rid of that leaky, lousy and expensive capacitor they made back in the 1920's. Direct coupled power amplifiers were quite common in the early 1930's. Capacitors were expensive and poor and often quite unreliable. We are lucky to live in times of which passive components are no longer of such a limiting factor.

I like the idea of direct coupling simply because it has no capacitors to mess up the phase, limit the LF and to steer into recovery problems. But I think it comes at a price. First of all we need a lot of high Voltage and that is not really what I long for, secondly and more importantly the danger of errors. In a DC coupled power amplifier any runaway, bad soldering, poor pin contact are most likely to lead to catastrophic failure killing the output tube and possible damage to rectifiers, chokes and so on. I really care too much about my precious triode darlings in order to fully trust that nothing will ever go wrong. These reasons was exactly why the "Direct coupled amplifiers" were abandoned as quickly as they had been adapted.

This original L & W uses a 24 pentode to drive the 45 power triode – directly.....650 Volts of power behind. L & W benefits from the use of a tetrode as the sg2 is fixed in the current loop, thus assist in maintaining the DC values as intended.

These guys were brave in more than one way – and at least we need to touch the hat in honor to Loftin and White...Well done, guys.