

Western Electric, 7A, 1922-24?

Flawless design, no hum, no resistor noise, no capacitor blocking. This is my absolute favorite Western Electric amplifier design. At the days it was made the components was not anything to brag about, but keep in mind that this was a repeater amplifier – made for telephone communication. Build it today with high quality tubes and transformers and you will have an absolute top class amplifier. Western Electric was a sub-division under the Bell lab. (Graham Bell – ding ding , does this name ring a bell ?)

The ball shape of the early tubes was simply because that the technology of glass was already incorporated in the automobile industry by the use of Edison's incandescent light bulb.

I have been told by **Roger A Modjeski** (Music Reference, Beveridge etc.) that this amplifier was a set for domestic use – it came with a speaker. The WE 7A was made to amplify headphone type early radios.



Western Electric, 7A, from the collection of Ernie Hite, Photo: Charlotte ARC

I will swing my hat to this – one of the first amplifiers ever made.