
Subject: Newbie with service questions

Posted by [Clay1017](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2017 16:13:09 GMT

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Hello and thanks for letting me become a new member to the forum. I have recently joined the Kustom club with a Charcoal Sparkle K100-1 with 2X15 Jensen cab, and and Black K200B-1 with 2X15 CTS cab. I am familiar with servicing vintage Fender amps. Transistors are a new challenge for me. My question is, as a rule do you guys go through your amps and replace/upgrade certain components immediately, or is it more or less a "change things if it is noisy" type thing? My tech skills involve "shotgunning" most things, rather than testing for leaky caps, etc. With Fenders you know the electrolytics most often need replaced, etc. Are there general rules for Kustoms?

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2017 18:16:37 GMT

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Welcome to the place!

There will be as many opinions on this subject as there are members here, so here's my point of view.

I don't like replacing stuff for the sake of replacing stuff. Every amp has a history and that history will contribute to the condition of the amp. Noise and hiss and bad caps, etc. can all be caused in part by the way the amp was treated. Was it kept in a nice environment or was it stored in a wet garage? Was it ever in a flood and if it was, was it sewage or sea water or rain water?

I've seen a lot of amps and with only a few exceptions, there really is no way to say that such and such a part always fails. The world and the interwebs is made up of a lot of different people, and everybody has his or her own way of thinking and doing things. So take anything that you read here with an open mind and form your own opinions based upon what you learn to be true, not what somebody else believes is true.

Again, welcome.

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions

Posted by [DeadKoby](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2017 02:05:43 GMT

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In the case of fixing my Kustom, I replaced only parts that were bad or out of spec. That was 1 transistor, and one cap on one of the pre-amp boards. Everything else is OK, and no further tech work is needed.

The filter caps on mine were really high grade, and Tantalum caps instead of electrolytic in most places. It leads to a long life.

Since there's not a lot of input resistance, the first transistor on a pre-amp board is a bit susceptible to failure... but otherwise, no worries.

Filter caps on tube amps take a bigger beating because of the higher voltages. This isn't applicable on the solid state amps.

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions
Posted by [Clay1017](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2017 14:15:02 GMT
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Thanks for the replies guys. DK ..I was really inspired by your YouTube videos on fixing the K200B-1. But I would probably replace all the the transistors and then wire the base/collector/emitter wrong on one of them and have to tear the whole thing apart searching for it. Ha!

Cheers, Clay

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions
Posted by [mister honey](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2017 19:31:50 GMT
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Clay1017 wrote on Fri, 22 September 2017 10:15DK ..I was really inspired by your YouTube videos on fixing the K200B-1.
Cheers, Clay

Do you have a link for this YT video?

Mike

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions
Posted by [DeadKoby](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2017 13:24:21 GMT
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I will post the links in my next message..... I have to make sure I have 10 posts. LOL

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions
Posted by [DeadKoby](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2017 13:25:05 GMT
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Here you go. I've been using it in studio on my new record... sounds great.

Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgDJ83VEL4o>

Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKuyAlcC9os&t=1384s>

Inside the cab.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaTa9GxyzLI>

Final testing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRRSQ6JdyGc>

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions

Posted by [pleat](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2017 01:30:37 GMT

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Great watching the repair of the K200B1 amp. I noticed you have a 315B cab with the silver threads in the grill cloth which would be a cab matched with the K250 series. I would take the back off and check to see what is really in the cabinet for speakers and brand. It looks like the center speaker is Kustoms KEI guitar speaker. In that series cab, Kustom used 8 ohm speakers wired in parallel for a 2.7 ohm total load. The K200B1 amp wants at least a 4 ohm load.

pleat

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions

Posted by [mister honey](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2017 12:45:34 GMT

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Thanks for the YT links... could not find Dead Koby via search.

Mike

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions

Posted by [DeadKoby](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2017 19:24:43 GMT

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One of my videos includes opening the cab up. You can see it too. The drivers are 16 ohm.

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2017 16:11:42 GMT

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Nice videos, but I'll point out that the two input jacks are not high and low gain. The high input is a low cut filtered input making it a bright input and the low is a normal input.

The tantalum caps and the green 1% film resistors that were used in these amps were state of the

art at the time these amps were designed. They were expensive to use, were far more reliable and helped keep some of the typical noise levels down compared to other amps being built at the time.

Keep up the good work.

Subject: Re: Newbie with service questions

Posted by [DeadKoby](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2017 16:58:27 GMT

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Although I own 4 basses, and have 4 bass amps to pick from... I'm using the Kustom rig with a Rickenbacker for the whole record.... sounds great, and I don't need to mess with success.
