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Subject: Re: Repair advise

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Thu, 15 Aug 2013 17:26:33 GMT

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That place looks like a lot of fun. They most definitely will have a better selection of parts than RS. There used to be a lot of those types of place around here, but sadly all are long gone.

For the preamp circuit there are two types of transistors used. One is the SE4002 NPN and the other is the 2N4249 PNP. These are both very basic transistors. Almost any modern transistor will replace them with no problems. The easiest types to find will be the 2N3904 and 2N3906. These are used in so many items they have become a sort of industry standard part. That's why you can find them anywhere electronic parts are sold.

In most cases finding NOS parts is really not worth the time and trouble as the parts will be expensive and their performance will not be any better than that of the modern parts. In fact sometimes the old parts will be worse than their modern equivalents. So unless there is no modern replacement, I tend to stay away from NOS parts, except the ones that I bought when they were new and have stored for 40 years.

If you plan on repairing amps as a hobby, then yes buying a stock of parts to have on hand will be a good thing to have. What I usually do is when I need to order a part, I will order a few more than I need. That way I will build up a stock of parts for future use. Of course I only do this when ordering parts that are generic enough to be used in other things. I just needed to order a memory backup battery for a Jupiter 6 synth. The last time I needed one was probably 10 years ago. I only ordered one.

I have never seen a preamp resistor burn out in a Kustom amp before. I have seen them get noisy, go off value or break into pieces, but never burn out. Under normal circumstances there is never enough current being drawn in the preamp circuits to cause one to burn out.

Personally, I am a firm believer in only replacing parts that need to be replaced. Generally the only times I will break this rule is when there are certain needs for reliability or safety and when there are known high failure rates of certain components.

Just my 2 cents.

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