

coffee. It was a rainy day, my friend felt he had nothing to lose, and I felt like 'having a go' — so that settled it.

These 'CRT rejuvenator' devices were at one time quite common about the trade (and still are, in a more elaborate form — Ed.), and generally consisted of a filament transformer tapped at 6.3V, 7.5V and 9V, together with some form of HT supply around the 200V mark.

Mine was constructed in an old wooden meter case, with a set of flyleads emanating from one side, terminated in an eight-pin CRT socket.

When fitted to the picture tube, all the elements were tied to the positive side of the HT supply through a 15 watt 240V lamp. The cathode of the tube was returned to the negative terminal.

The front panel was rather unimpressive, consisting simply of a filament voltage selector switch, an AC switch to the filament transformer only, and a means of viewing the lamp.

There were probably as many versions of this device as there were methods of using them, hence I make no claims for my own system other than to say that I used it often, with excellent results.

In operation, the HT supply remained on for the duration of the rejuvenation and the filament voltage turned on at the lowest tapping, while watching the lamp for any sign of redness.

Usually nothing happened and one then tried the 7.5V tap, or if necessary the 9V tap. At the first sign of a glow, the AC supply to the filament was cut until everything cooled down, then the whole process started over again. The object was to have the lamp glow on the 6.3V setting. At this point the low emission is

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From time to time there are jobs which a serviceman tackles for no remuneration; sometimes voluntarily, and sometimes unwittingly. The former are usually done out of curiosity, amusement or necessity. The story that follows involved all three.

It started when a friend of mine, an auto electrician by trade, arrived at my home one wet Saturday afternoon with an old 6V6-G valve in his hand. I winced inwardly at the sight, but actually I should not have done so. He had helped me with a couple of favours some weeks previously, by way of overnight repairs to the service van, so this time it was my turn.

As a hobby, my friend had been restoring a vintage model Healing 'Golden Voice' console radio. It transpired that the task had been completed recently, and although the set operated quite well initially, the volume slowly decreased over time until it became barely audible.

Furthermore, he had correctly diagnosed the cause to be low emission of the old output pentode, now cradled carefully in his hand. His hope was that I might have "...an old one in the junk box?"

He might well have been right, but an extensive search failed to unearth one, or even a suitable substitute. What I did find, however, was a piece of homemade equipment that I used back in the black and white days for rejuvenating weak picture tubes. I had never before used it on normal valves of any kind, but curiosity began nagging at me. We discussed the possibilities over a cup of

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cured, and the tube should perform like new.

On this particular occasion we set up the experiment on the kitchen table (ignoring the disapproving looks from Mrs L.K.), and connected the 6V6-G to the socket with jumper leads. The valve responded very quickly to the treatment, for in only a few minutes I felt confident in pronouncing the job a success. But proof of the pudding came about an hour later, when a phone call confirmed that the old radio had "...never sounded better!" So for those enthusiasts doing a restoration and finding themselves stuck in this manner, I can only suggest 'Give it a go!'

For low power valves, and also for mini series types, it may be wise to use a higher ohmage load than the one I have described. The characteristics of an incandescent lamp are ideal for this application, since the resistance will increase with temperature (brightness) — thereby offering a fair degree of protection over that from a pure resistance.

So there! That answers a question that's been in my mind for years. In fact, ever since I first boosted a picture tube. I have often wondered if an ordinary valve would respond to rejuvenation in the same way as a picture tube does.

The question arose because I was a young teenager during the last war and, with my father away overseas, I spent a lot of time with a favourite uncle. Uncle Norm was a representative for a company called 'Valve Life', and he spent much of his time visiting the few radio shops that still had any stock, to collect old valves for rejuvenation.

During the war, valves for domestic use were simply not available, so the only way to keep the old radios going was per medium of 'rejuvenators' like my uncle. I never did see the factory where the rejuvenation was done, so I have no idea of just what went on there. But L.K.'s story fills in a lot of the missing detail. One thing I do recall about that period was that the rejuvenation sometimes didn't work, or even destroyed the valve. That accounts for why we spent so many Saturday mornings haunting the auction sales, buying up old radios for the replacement valves they contained.

L.K.'s story has certainly kicked around a few memories for me. I hope you found it as interesting as I did. And that's it, for this month. ■