

Inside German Vacuum Tube Microphone Transformers

By C. H. Preston



Neumann U-47
(Photo courtesy Gotham Audio LLC
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German vacuum tube microphones have enjoyed a longevity that has spawned legends and careers. Like a Stadivari violin from the 1700's, German tube microphones from the 1940's and 50's had the perfect combination of engineering, craftsmanship and art. Their lush sound and simplicity of design challenge the abilities of the best microphone designers of today to equal.

This paper is another chapter in a series of papers that outline detailed vintage transformer dissections. Every reasonable effort has been made to be sure the information contained is accurate. Corrections and challenges are welcome.

For more transformer dissections, pro-audio products and information, or, if you would like to contact me, please visit my website: www.vintagewindings.com

Several of the transformers featured in the following text were kindly supplied by Philip Cameron. Without his generosity the forthcoming information would not have been possible.

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