

572B OVERVIEW

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First I must correct a few dates that slipped by me.
It was the end of the 1980's that Cetron ceased production of their 572B.
I have changed the ending of this overview regarding current delivery status.

The first 572B was made by United Electronics for a company called "Waters Manufacturing".
The WATERS tube first showed up in the Heathkit SB200 amplifier c. 1964.
Soon, Cetron replaced United Electronics as the supplier
and labeled their tube 572B/T160L.

The T160L is a through-back to an early tube numbering scheme by Eimac, Taylor, and others,
where the 160 is the plate dissipation rating and "L" identified the tube as being low-mu.

Dentron Electronics later used the Cetron tube in their amps c. 1970's & 1980's.
Hunter and Ameritron also used the 572B.

At that time, Cetron was the only manufacturer of the 572B, and
RF Parts was the only remaining customer when production ceased in 1989.

RF Parts Co. chose to discontinue buying from Cetron due to inflated factory prices.
The new cost would have made it necessary to sell the 572B at \$125 each in 1989 dollars.
As it would have been a special production run just for RF Parts Co.,
it would require cash up front for a 2000 pcs. minimum order.
RF Parts Co. was a smaller company at that time, and demand for the 572B
was not so great as to warrant our investment.

In the 1990's, the Chinese factory Shuguang started producing the tube, which we began selling.
Price was very attractive, and the factory began improving their produce during the first year or two.

In later years, the quality of the Shuguang tube became inconsistent.
To maintain quality, RF Parts and Ameritron instituted full 100% testing,
with any marginal tubes being shipped back to Shuguang.
I don't think Shuguang destroyed all of the returns,
salvaging most for sell to domestic dealers.
(I suspect that these tubes are now being offered on ebay.)
Shuguang ceased manufacturing the 572B tube in 2013.
When stateside supplies ran out, Ameritron and RF PARTS had no tubes to sell.

Going back to 1996, RF PARTS was able to import the Russian Svetlana tube. This was not an exact copy of the U.S. tube, but one made from available materials found in Russia at the time. Only one production run was made. It had a bit less dissipation capability, but otherwise was interchangeable. RF PARTS found that a full 100% testing was also required for our acceptance. Unfortunately, stock on the SV572B has long since run out.

About a year ago, RF PARTS approached different Chinese tube factory to build a premium grade 572B as close to the U.S. quality as possible. This tube would be manufactured exclusively for RF PARTS. Evaluation of new materials was necessary to improve the tube design to the level we required. This took longer than we originally estimated, and several iterations later, we put pre-production samples through an extensive evaluation. During this period, the design and quality were finalized, and the factory was given the go-ahead for production in November 2014.

The first production tubes should arrive at RF PARTS by early December. All will be fully tested, with a portion subjected to extended transmit time before the remainder are shipped. RF Parts has pre-sold the first couple production runs to customers that had placed firm orders with us. RF Parts will re-open order acceptance for the 572B at a time to be announced on or before December 19, 2014.

