From: **Steve A.** (*steveahola@ca.astound.net*)
Date: 3/23/2006 11:37 AM
Subject: **Ck and coupling caps for V1 w/ vol-tone mod?**

Any preferences here? In checking through old posts here it looks like the coupling caps are usually 0.022uF or 0.047uF, and the Ck caps are anywhere from 22uF down to 4.7uF or even 0.68uF.

But I was wondering how the new voicings of the two channels with Bruces vol-tone mod would affect things.

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

From: **Al** (*ajkimba@comcast.net*)
Date: 3/24/2006 12:12 AM
Subject: **Re: Ck and coupling caps for V1 w/ vol-tone mod?**

Stock coupling caps were .1uf and the bypass caps were 22uf (maybe 20uf in the old days).

Most people would feel the amp is a little farty or muddy with these caps so people began to change them to: coupling caps .047 or even .022. And the bypass caps to somewhere less then 22uf, usually 4.7uf.

These mods are the defarting mods people talk about.

I personally like the .047 on the normal and .022 on the bright with both bypass caps at 4.7uf.

I did the vol/tone mod with these new values in place. And that probably has a little to do with me saying the mod takes some mojo out.

I'd recommend running .047uf on both coupling caps, 4.7uf on both bypass caps with the vol/tone mod as there is a bright cap (100pf) used in the mod for the bright channel.
Al

From: **pete**
Date: 3/24/2006 1:41 AM
Subject: **Re: Ck and coupling caps for V1 w/ vol-tone mod?**

.022uf ...sounds great, loses the bass flubs altogether, anyway, that's what I used on my second 5e3...just had it open, and messing with the bias and stuff.
As my second one, I'm inclined to leave it a touch 'bass shy' like this, for a "Marshally sound crunch-grind, it does. But it makes it sound a touch "Wah-Q-Ish" or treble boosty...cool but I may go back and parallel a cap or two, to open up the bass content through the normal channel.
If I were doing it again, for 'my amp', [if I had just one] .039uf as a low 'extreme' or more likely .047uf's would be my choice...Taking off a 'small hunk' of the bass content the amp gets going...I think .022uf has it's place but limits the bass possibilities/is a bit extreme.
As Stock, for the HB pickups I have in my guitars, 'PAF or a little hotter', I'd take some of the bass flab down, but for SC"s I might only want a touch shaved off...I'd put a switch on some, but switch really doesn't have a good 'angle' for placement and associated wiring.
It's all subjective and dependant on...everything else that influences the voicing.
Amp just seems a touch bass heavy with HB's in the stock configuration.
10uf...that said I shouldn't mention bypass caps since I can't remember where/what exactly.
So...pretty much what Al Said...

From: **Allen** (*asciiman@charter.net*)
Date: 3/24/2006 2:27 AM
Subject: **Re: Ck and coupling caps for V1 w/ vol-tone mod?**

Yeah, I'm with you Pete... I like it stock for single coils... just sounds so good with a strat in the neck position! For humbuckers I use Bruce's little RC switch thing on V2 and then I run the opposite volume up to around 10 to dial out the mids. Works great. I liked it with .047's but not as well as stock. It's the blues...

From: **Steve A.** (*steveahola@ca.astound.net*)
Date: 3/24/2006 6:13 AM
Subject: **So what about splitting the cathodes on V1?**

With Bruce's Vol-Tone mod, you lose some of the interactiveness of the stock design, so why not split the cathodes of V1 and voice each stage differently?

If anybody has tried this with the Volume-Tone mods, let us know!

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

P.S. You can jumper the two channels together to blend the two (I guess you can do that with the stock amp as well).

From: **Chris@CMWamps** (*info@CMWamps.com*)
Date: 3/24/2006 8:45 AM
Subject: **Re: So what about splitting the cathodes on V1?**

Hi Steve

I did. Different voicing/gain is possible and it also gives a tighter low-end and way less interaction. Kinda like the difference between the tweed 5F6A Bassman and a post '67 Marshall (Super)Lead.
I also use seperated cathodes with the regular 5E3 controls.
Jumpering channels is possible in both versions.

Hope this helps/keep on tweakin'!

Chris

From: **Steve A.** (*steveahola@ca.astound.net*)
Date: 3/24/2006 10:27 AM
Subject: **Re: So what about splitting the cathodes on V1?**

Chris said:

I also use seperated cathodes with the regular 5E3 controls.

I really liked the natural interaction between the 3 controls on a stock 5E3... like a stealth mode when you are plugged into the Bright channel and turn up the Normal volume. The common cathodes added to the interaction between the pots. So to keep the magic of the stock 5E3 you ought to have a switch to join the two cathodes together. But I would NEVER use the Normal channel by itself so it was kind of a waste in that regard. :(

I took out my 5E3 "trick" switch when I rewired the cathodyne PI with the Paul C. mod. This was a On-Off-On SPDT toggle switch that in two positions would add a second .022uF cap in series with the normal .022uF PI input cap to bring the net capacitance down to .01uF for a warmer sound. In the third position, you'd still have the extra cap, but it dropped the grid load down to 180k from 1M to lower the gain:

http://www.blueguitar.org/new/schem/blue_gtr/5e3trick.gif

By switching between the 3 modes you could cover a lot of ground from a stock tweed deluxe to an almost blackface vibe.

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

From: **Chris@CMWamps** (*info@CMWamps.com*)
Date: 3/24/2006 11:04 AM
Subject: **Re: So what about splitting the cathodes on V1?**

Hi Steve

After midnight in CA? :)

The shared cathodes do also add some compression but I really like a "tighter than stock low end" with the seperated cathodes and some more tweaks.

Most guys are using the bright-channel, I've only seen one guy with a Tele using the normal channel in one of my 5E3 style amps.

It should be possible to make a shared/seperated-switch.

Chris
