

The Visseaux Amp

(Trans-SE mono blocks with pre-amp ; still in progress)

Jan Willem Bentum June-5-2022



In the 2021-2022 edition of Tube Society, Menno asked us to select a project of our own choice. I initially thought of a project with Russian power tubes like the 6c33/6s33 or the 6c19p/6s19p. I have some experience with the (rather unknown) 6c19p. Some engineers love them, some hate them.

After some rethinking, I decided to let the project with the Russian tubes rest for now. My all-time favorite tubes were made by Visseaux (a tube-manufacturer based in Lyon, France, 1872-1956). Excellent tubes, sonic wise and very strong built. Another Visseaux-“lover” is mr. Fred Musset from France (<http://a-direct-heating-triode.blogspot.com/>).

So I made my decision: I want to build an amplifier with Visseaux-tubes. After some nights of searching the internet I found out that it is very difficult to obtain Visseaux power tubes. The only tube I could find in larger quantities was the EL33 (from the 40's/50's). I was able to buy 10 tubes. The tube for the pre-amp could only be my favorite 6J5GT. I am very familiar with this tube.

After consulting and approval of Menno, after all I am a freshman, I decided to build an amplifier with a 6J5GT as a pre-amp tube and two EL33's parallel as the power amp tubes (in a Single Ended version delivering 4,5 Watt). Not a stereo-version, but a 2 x mono block.

I made an appointment with Menno for the TubeSociety-clinic and we were 'on the road'. We decided to design and build it in two parts. Part one is the power-tube-circuitry with Trans-technology. Part two would be the pre-amp circuitry.

After nights of thinking about parts, enclosures, placement of the parts in the enclosures. I ordered everything I needed. I had to buy a drilling machine, drills, a soldering station et cetera.

I received all the ordered goods and parts and could start building. I like building 'old school' (with eyelets). Of course by trial and error, but after completing part one I made an appointment with Menno. After some changes in the circuit topography we brought the Visseaux to life, we had a nice sinus on the scope-screen. Yeah! Now I have to design the pre-amp circuitry, part two of my project.

