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Sophia 274B Rectifier Tube — Jeff Dorgay

www.sophiaelectric.com \$279

Now a lot of us like to swap tubes from time to time, but if you are a hard core tubeophile, you take it all the way to the rectifier tube. I noticed that SH wanted a Western Electric 274B in his Epifania preamp and got to thinking about that 5U4GB in my Poeta. He told me that the WE rectifier would add that 'last bit of magic' that he craved.

Unfortunately, no one could give me a solid reason why an upgraded rectifier tube would improve the sound, but I figured replacing a garden variety tube with a very high quality tube had to make a difference, right? Well it did, and though another subtle improvement, I did seem to get better quality bass, with a bit more texture. My logic is that it is a power supply upgrade, and that's what I'm sticking to.

Even if I didn't hear any better sound, I would buy this tube again, because it looks much cooler than the standard EHX tube that was in my Poeta. This is one beautiful tube!! Sophia makes a lot of variations on the 300B and 2A3 tubes, so look for some reports there as well. We will also be reviewing a few of their amplifiers next year. ●

