

Power Amplifier and Cabinet Simulation

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This circuit simulates the interaction between a current mode amplifier, as it is typically found in tube power amplifier stages, and a speaker load. It includes power supply sag simulation as present in tube power amplifiers.

It is of particular use in conjunction with a tube preamp emulation circuit, especially for use in guitar amplifiers. It can be used for recording, for providing a PA system with guitar signal without mic'ing a cabinet, or to bring tube output stage behaviour to a voltage mode solid state power amplifier like a chipamp, gainclone or discrete design. The output can be used in balanced or unbalanced configuration.

It is a tiny power amplifier with a reactive load in current mode and thus will behave very much like a tube output stage with an output transformer would; it's amplification behaviour is dictated by the current consumed by the output load, and thus behaves in exactly the opposite fashion as a voltage mode amplifier would (which is dictated by the voltage across the output load). It is dimensioned so it can be powered by a small power supply (12-15V, 300 mA max.; recommended fuse is 800mA slow blow) and built into a stompbox. it uses readily available parts only and costs about 15€ in parts including a wall wart power supply.

Comments, criticism and mods or improvements are of course welcome.

