

"RED STAR" 6L6's

I've been servicing electronic equipment for more than ten years, in an area famous for its recording studios and patriotism. I have maintained both vintage and modern amplifiers owned by my clients. Recently I was retubing a guitar amplifier when I noticed that just below the 6L6-GC type number, a small star and the letters "USSR." Perhaps I've been a bit brainwashed, but I'm worried about the quality of tubes made by the Russians. I'm also wondering how my clients would react if they knew that I'd installed tubes that were made in "The Evil Empire" in their 30-year old Fender amplifier. Will I get in any kind of trouble with the authorities if one of the studios reports that I've been using tubes that were made in the USSR?—
G.O.P., Sheffield, AL.

We don't believe that the 6L6's were made in the USSR. Instead, we have a hunch that those tubes were made for use in Russian electronic equipment and are from World War II surplus stock.

During the war, the Russians were, of course, our allies. Supplies we sent to Russia ranged from food and fuel up to and including Liberty ships (freighters), with all the equipment carrying Russian markings so that Russian crews could operate them with little or no additional training. The 6L6's were probably used in ship-board PA systems or in the audio stages of radio transmitters. R-E

OBVIOUSLY NEVER HEARD
OF "SOVTEC" TUBES.