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MULLARD VALVE ETCHED CODES - HOW TO INTERPRET THEM

# MULLARD VALVE ETCHED CODES - HOW TO INTERPRET THEM

Posted by **STEVE M** on **Apr 23, 2019**

There is much conflicting folklore on the internet about the Mullard etched valve codes so I thought I would add our two penny-worth.

The etched codes have value to us today as they contain two discrete nuggets of information; firstly, should a valve loose it's printing you can identify the valve type and secondly, you can glean the production site and the month and year of manufacture.

The etched codes, in general, comprise of two lines stacked vertically with the top line being a three character Engineering Code with the third digit signifying the development iteration of the valve. For example, I6x signifies an ECC83 with the sequential progression off x ie. I61; I62; I63; I64 signifying production changes which may be support rod metallurgy, getter support type, pin construction, anode coating reformulation, etc - unfortunately no definitive guide to these iterations exists to my knowledge. As Mullard made 8600 different types of valve, I am not going to try and list all of the Engineering Codes but a poll of t'Interweb should find a list somewhere

The lower line is the date code and a handy decade split can be made from the number of characters this line possess: -

If its a 3 character code, the valve was produced pre 1960

If its a 4 character code, the valve was produced post 1960

The first character gives the production site and some of the most common are given below:-

B : - Mullard, Blackburn

D: - Valvo, Hamburg (Germany)

G : - Mullard, Fleetwood

J : - Mullard ( British Tungsram), Tottenham

R : - Mullard, Mitcham

X : - Philips, Sittard (Holland)

Y : - Philips, Sittard (Holland)

9: - Philips, Heerlen, (Holland)

Of course there are even more:.....

A	Wiener Radio Werke "WIRAG", Wien
B	Mullard, Blackburn
C	Hendon Works, Alberton, Australia
D	Valvo, Hamburg
d	Ned. Instituut voor Fysisch Onderzoek
E	Hyperlec Brive (Correza)
F	La Radiotechnique, Suresnes
Ɔ	Marconi .Osram Valve Co.
f	Standard telephones and Cables Ltd. (later Thorn) East German origin (after 1 Jan 1970)
G	Mullard, Fleetwood Loewe Opta (after 22 Feb 1954)
I	Thorn-AEI Radio valve Co. Ltd. (Ediswan) , Mullard supply
J	Mullard, Tottenham (formerly Tungsram)
K	?
L	M.B.L.E., Bruxelles (Mazda)
m	?
N	Matsushita Electronics Corp., Takatsuki, Japan G.E.C. Mullard supply
n	Matsushita Electronics Corp., Kyoto, Japan
P	Papesa, Buenos Aires
R	Mullard Radio valve Co., Mitcham
r	Philips Electronics Industries Ltd., Ontario, Canada
S	Lampara "Z", Barcelona
T	Philips, Eindhoven, afd 22652
t	T.I.C. Philips Export Corp., New York
ı	C.I.F.T.E., Courbevoie
U	Thorn-AEI Radio Valve Co. Ltd. (Formerly B.T.H.)
V	Bharat Electronics (Private) Ltd, Bangalore 13, India
X	Philips, Sittard, afd 22127
x	Philips, Chilena de Productos Electronicos, Chile
Y	Philips, Sittard, afd 22117 and 22118
Z	Philips, Monza
1	Philips, Eindhoven, afd 22020
2	Philips, Eindhoven, afd 22021
3	Ferranti (Mullard supply)
3	Philips Eindhoven, volgroepen I and II, Schouwbroekseweg Fivre, Italy (after 1 Jan 1970)
ε	Marconi, Chelmsford (Mullard supply)
4	Venolanda S.A., Venezuela
4	English Electric Valve Co. (Mullard supply)
5	Toshiba, Japan
ç	Cinema Television (Mullard Supply)
6	Philips, Eindhoven. Radio valve lab. receiving valve technology group Russian origin

And then some more too: .....

7	Philips, Eindhoven Radio valve lab. physics group. Hitachi, Japan
∇	Electrical and Musical Industries. (Mullard supply)
8	Philips, Eindhoven. Radio valve lab. glass group
9	Philips, Heerlen Radio valve lab. receiving valve technology group.
+	Philips, Sittard afd 22126
=	La Radiotechnique, Clichy (Neotron)
*	Amperex Electronic Corp., New York
%	Philips Eindhoven , afd 22851
Δ	Philips, Copenhagen
<	Philips Electrical Lamps Inc., Philipines Co. des Lampes
>	Visseaux, France Polish origin (after 1 Jan 1970)
±	La Radiotechnique, Chartres
≡	Electronic Tubes Ltd., (Mullard supply) IPERPESA, Peru (after 1 Jan 1970)
⊕	Siemens und Halske, München
∧	Mullard Radio Valve Co. Ltd., Croydon (Waddon)
⊞	Mullard Whyteleafe "A"
Δ	Philips, Heerlen
⌒	Mullard, Salfords
Ψ	IBRAPE, Sao Paulo, Brasil
⌒	Purchases from third parties by Mullard
⊞	Mullard Whyteleafe "B" (Kenley)
⌒	Tungsram
⌒	Telefunken and Telefunken Berlin
	Loewe Opta for Valvo, Hamburg
⌒	Elektronski Industija, Nis, Yugoslavia
:	Philips, Eindhoven. Radiation detector development

The second character gives the year of manufacture with decade differentiation being by number of characters and logo shape.

0: - 1950, 1960, 1970

1: - 1951, 1961, 1971

2: - 1952, 1962, 1972

3: - 1953, 1963, 1973

4: - 1954, 1964, 1974

5: - 1955, 1965, 1975

6: - 1956, 1966, 1976

7: - 1957, 1967, 1977

8: - 1958, 1968, 1978

9: - 1959, 1969, 1979

The third character gives the month of manufacture.

A : - January

B : - February

C : - March

D : - April

E : - May

F : - June

G : - July

H : - August

I : - September

J : - October

K : - November

L : - December

The fourth character gives the week of manufacture

1: - week 1 of month

2: - week 2 of month

3: - week 3 of month

4: - week 4 of month

5: - week 5 of month

To illustrate the above, here are a couple of worked examples: -



Xf2 B9H3 represents an EL34, Blackburn manufacture, week 3 of August 1959

k61 B63 represents an ECC82, Blackburn manufacture, week 3 of March 1956

f32 R9D5 represented a GZ34, Mitcham manufacture, week 5 of April 1969

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