

MULLARD EL84

Watkins & WEM designed their amps around the Mullard EL84

The Mullard EL84 differs from other brands in that pins 1 & 2 are internally connected, whereas other brands have pin 1 left unconnected

We have found examples of Watkins & WEM dominators where the connection to g1 is made to pin 1 instead of pin 2

Where Mullard valves are used this causes no problem, but if other brands are used, the amplifier does not function

So if you are going to use a brand other than Mullard in your Dominator or Custom 15, check that it has not been wired using pin 1 instead of pin 2. If it has change it before using valves of a different brand

Some other more recent amplifier manufacturers e.g. Laney in the VC30, use pin 1 of the EL84 socket as an anchor for other components, it follows therefore that fitting NOS Mullard EL84s in these amps will cause no shortage of problems, unless whatever is connected to pin 1 is found an alternative anchor point before Mullard valves are inserted

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