

ELECTRONIC TUBE REFERENCE

5558

Rectifier - Half Wave electronic tube

CONSOLIDATED TECHNICAL DATA

1 SECTION

CONSTRUCTION

RECTIFIER

Mercury-vapor half-wave rectifier for transmitting and industrial power supplies. Its heavy heater and gas-assisted conduction provide ampere-class output at multi-kilovolt voltage with low arc drop.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

BASE DESIGNATION	—	BASE PINS	—
NOMINAL HEATER	5 V / 4.5 A	PARALLEL HEATER	— / —
HEATING	Indirect	SERIES OPERATION	Not specified
CATHODE ARRANGEMENT	Separate cathodes	SECTION CONSTRUCTION	Similar

SECTION RATINGS

SECTION1 Rectifier	
PEAK INVERSE VOLTAGE	5000 V
NOMINAL OUTPUT CURRENT	2.5 A
PEAK FORWARD CURRENT	15 A
FORWARD VOLTAGE DROP	15 V
half-wave mercury-vapor rectifier	

Mercury-vapor half-wave rectifier for transmitting and industrial power supplies.



SOURCE OPERATING CONDITIONS

[SOURCE PDF](#)

1950 General Electric Transmitting Types

Published test conditions and operating points. Values on this page are preserved as reported by this source.

1950 GENERAL ELECTRIC TRANSMITTING TYPES

Section 1 · Rectifier

CHARACTERISTIC		
PARAMETER	PUBLISHED VALUE	CONDITION / NOTE
HeaterOrFilamentVoltage	5 V	—



SOURCE OPERATING CONDITIONS

[SOURCE PDF](#)

1956 RCA Transmitting Tubes

Published test conditions and operating points. Values on this page are preserved as reported by this source.

1956 RCA TRANSMITTING TUBES

Section 1 · Rectifier

CHARACTERISTICS		
PARAMETER	PUBLISHED VALUE	CONDITION / NOTE
Gas filling	Mercury vapor	—
Heating time minimum	5 min	—



SOURCE OPERATING CONDITIONS

[SOURCE PDF](#)

1971 RCA HB3 Binder 6 of 7

Published test conditions and operating points. Values on this page are preserved as reported by this source.

1971 RCA HB3 BINDER 6 OF 7

OTHER		
PARAMETER	PUBLISHED VALUE	CONDITION / NOTE
Peak Inverse Anode Voltage	5000 V	Mercury-vapor half-wave rectifier
Peak Cathode Current	15 A	Mercury-vapor half-wave rectifier
Average Cathode Current	2.5 A	Mercury-vapor half-wave rectifier
Fault Cathode Current, 0.1 s	200 A	Mercury-vapor half-wave rectifier

CHARACTERISTICS		
PARAMETER	PUBLISHED VALUE	CONDITION / NOTE
Tube Voltage Drop	15 V	Mercury-vapor half-wave rectifier
Minimum Heating Time	5 min	Mercury-vapor half-wave rectifier

TUBE TINKER

An independent reference for electronic tubes, vacuum tubes,
and their source documents.

[Catalog](#)[Tube types](#)[Full books](#)[Blog](#)[Feedback & corrections](#)

© 2026 Tube Tinker