

## **The 6SL7GT valve & It's variants**

**The 6SL7** is a high-mu twin triode in an octal based glass package. To my knowledge, there were not any metal shell versions made. Each triode section operates as a class-A amplifier. This tube has much higher mu than it's cousin, the 6SN7. It's factor is 70, whereas the 6SN7 is only 20, therefore these two tubes are not interchangeable. There is still a good population of hi-fi and musical instrument amps using this tube in the preamp stage out there, and these tubes are still available. The 6SL7 was never as popular as the 6SN7---due to the 6SN7's widespread use in television chassis design---so this tube does not turn up as often whenever vintage tubes are being sold. It is, in the proper circuit, a wonderful sounding tube, and audiophiles would do well to try the NOS vintage 6SL7 tubes before buying anything currently made today. These tubes come in glass packages, and have envelope sizes similar to the 6SN7 family. GE usually used a short glass shell, RCA used the medium, and Sylvania, Westinghouse, and Raytheon often used the "tall boy" style. There are many variations among brands, and even within brands. Here is a summary of what is most often available:

**6SL7GT / G:** This is the standard version of this tube produced by most USA makers. Nearly all have a pair of cylindrical plates, usually mounted low in the tube. Early versions have an RF shield sprayed on inside the glass (greyglass), and then since about 1952 were made of clearglass. RCA used the famous blackplates and a bottom getter, as did early Sylvania. In the 1950s, Sylvania went to a top getter, called chrome tops, and used both a short and a tall boy style. General Electric used a short glass envelope, bright nickel plates, and a side mounted getter. They also made tubes for other brands. Whenever you see the bright plates, even in tall boy glass with bottom getters they were most likely made by GE. Ken Rad tubes are just like GE. Early Tung Sol tubes looked like RCA, but later went to small grey rectangular plates that looked like tiny 6SN7 GE plates. Tubes made after 1975 used the coin or wafer base. These are all great vintage tubes.

rs (ON SALE)

ACCESSORIES (NEW)

Pre Tubes

Power Tubes

Rectifiers

Prem Tubes (MULLARD-BRIMAR-)

Brimar 6SL7GT - M. Pairs RARE Like New Early 1960s SQ Getter BVA Black Base -  
STC Footscray Prod.





**5691:** This is the "industrial" version of the 6SL7, and has premium qualifications. These include a long life heater, extra thick mica spacers, extra support rods, and often a low loss micanol base. RCA made these in their famous "red base" line, identified by their red marbled micanol base. Other brands sold a 5691 with brown or black bases, but virtually all were made by RCA. The early versions have dull blackplates and the old circle RCA logo on the base and/or the top of the tube. Later

versions have greyplates, and the modern RCA logo in orange on the redbase. Both sound and perform identically. Since the greyplates are usually easier to find, they are usually priced lower, giving a great opportunity to own a real 5691 at a savings. These tubes are great, and last a long time. They have also nearly disappeared. Their high price is justified by their high quality and demand in the market. The military versions of the 6SL7 are often just as good, so don't despair if you can't find! 5691 tubes!



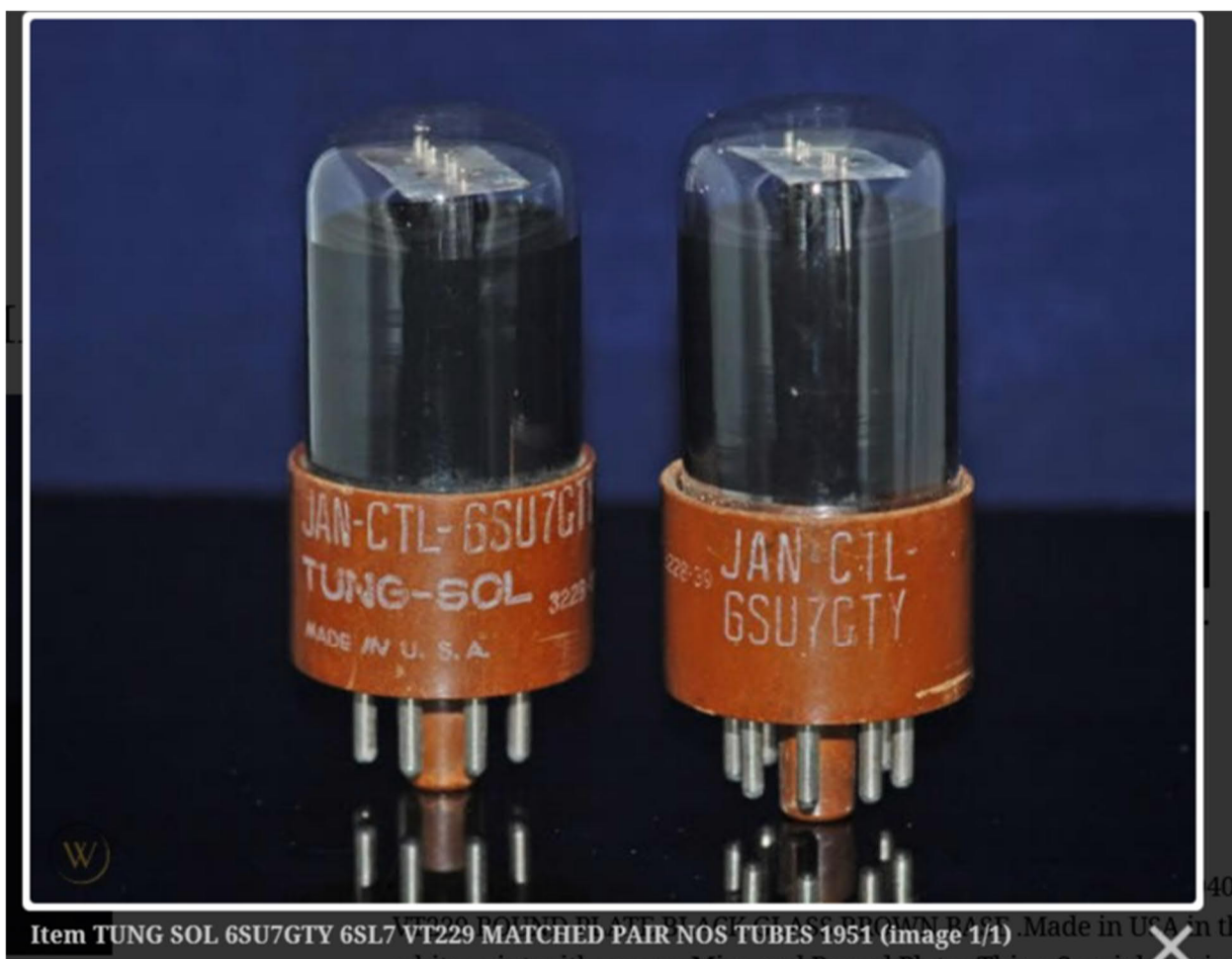
**ECC35:** A very rare European type of 6SL7. Philips are what are mostly seen, if rarely. The Holland made versions are similar in size to the "tall boy" USA types. These usually have high-mounted cylindrical plates, and brown micanol bases. These are sweet and rare versions of the 6SL7, and are plug and play compatible with any 6SL7 or 5691 type tube. Some say they have all the best attributes of the 5691, with better richness and vocal clarity. Very hard to find in the USA, and worth grabbing whenever you can find them!



**JAN 6SL7GT, JAN 6SL7WGT, VT229:** These are the military versions of these tubes. The Joint Army-Navy used the term "JAN", sometimes (but not always!) with the letters WGT, and / or (but again, not always!) with the designation of VT229. A true military tube will always be marked "JAN". They may or may not have listings such as "WGT", which is mil spec ruggedized; or VT229, which is the military type number of this tube. A common belief is that VT229 tubes are better than JAN or WGT types. Not true! These ARE ALL THE SAME TUBES. They may or may not have brown micanol bases. All have extra support rods and mica, and are very rugged tubes that sound wonderful. The RCA, Sylvania, Ken Rad, and Tung Sol JAN blackbase tubes look much like their civilian counterparts. JAN Sylvania, Tung Sol, GE, and RCA also made versions with brown bases, mostly with short glass envelopes. The JAN Sylvania have a light marbled base, and the plates inside are very short black cylinders. These milspec versions are an endangered species, and stocks may be wiped out when the 5691 series of tubes vanish. Prices are on the way up because of this.



**6SU7GT / 6188:** This is a premium version made by Tung Sol, possibly made by them for other brands as well, as GE lists it in their own "Essential Characteristics" book. It has a brown micanol base and the triode sections are factory matched. Sometimes the tube is listed by the industrial number of 6198, some military types list both numbers on the tube, and yet some don't use the industrial number. It's the same tube regardless. These are great 6SL7 substitutes said to sound sweet, but are rare.



Item TUNG SOL 6SU7GT 6SL7 VT229 MATCHED PAIR NOS TUBES 1951 (image 1/1)