

# Nu:Tekt

NUTUBE HEADPHONE AMPLIFIER KIT

# HA-S

Owner's Manual

取扱説明書

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Thank you for purchasing the Nu:Tekt HA-S.

To help you get the most out of your new headphone amp, please read this manual carefully.

## Main features

- The HA-S is a kit to assemble a hi-fi headphone amp that utilizes a Korg Nutube vacuum tube.
- Although this headphone amp is powered with only two batteries, it can drive the Nutube with a line voltage of 26 V for an authentic vacuum tube sound.
- The filament is powered by a DC to DC converter, which consumes less electric current.
- An NFB (negative feedback) switch is used, which lets you switch the NFB circuit on and off as you like.
- The headphone amp output uses an IC socket, which allows the operational amplifier to be replaced. Two types of operational amplifiers are included.
- The Nutube anode load resistance value can be adjusted, letting you enjoy different sounds by changing the steepness of the load curve for the vacuum tube.
- This unit is shaped like a mint can case, which is familiar to fans of these kinds of cases. –The unit also includes a protector for the power switch.
- An acrylic cover is provided that features the Nu:Tekt design, letting you see the light from the Nutube through the cover.

## About Nutube

Nutube is a new vacuum tube developed by KORG INC. and Noritake Itron Corporation and that utilizes technology from vacuum fluorescent displays. As with conventional vacuum tubes, the Nutube is constructed with an anode, grid and filament, and operates as a complete triode tube. Furthermore, it generates the response and same rich harmonic characteristics of conventional vacuum tubes.



If a strong impact is applied to this unit, high-frequency noise may be output. This is due to the structure of the Nutube; it is not a malfunction.

# Precautions

## Location

Using the unit in the following locations can result in a malfunction.

- In direct sunlight
- Locations of extreme temperature or humidity
- Excessively dusty or dirty locations
- Locations of excessive vibration
- Close to magnetic fields

## Power supply

Be sure to turn the power switch to OFF when the unit is not in use. Remove the battery in order to prevent it from leaking when the unit is not in use for extended periods.

## Handling

To avoid breakage, do not apply excessive force to the switches or controls.

## Care

If the exterior becomes dirty, wipe it with a clean, dry cloth. Do not use liquid cleaners such as benzene, alcohol or thinner, or cleaning compounds or flammable polishes.

## Keep this manual

After reading this manual, please keep it for later reference.

## Keeping foreign matter out of your equipment

Never set any container with liquid in it near this equipment. If liquid gets into the equipment, it could cause a breakdown, fire, or electrical shock. Be careful not to let metal objects get into the equipment.

## Notice regarding disposal (EU only)



If this symbol is shown on the product, manual, battery, or package, you must dispose of it in the correct manner to avoid harm to human health or damage to the environment. Contact your local administrative body for details on the correct disposal method. If the battery contains heavy metals in excess of the regulated amount, a chemical symbol is displayed below the symbol on the battery or battery package.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CONSUMERS

This product has been manufactured according to strict specifications and voltage requirements that are applicable in the country in which it is intended that this product should be used. If you have purchased this product via the internet, through mail order, and/or via a telephone sale, you must verify that this product is intended to be used in the country in which you reside.

**WARNING:** Use of this product in any country other than that for which it is intended could be dangerous and could invalidate the manufacturer's or distributor's warranty. Please also retain your receipt as proof of purchase otherwise your product may be disqualified from the manufacturer's or distributor's warranty. Company names, product names, and names of formats etc. are the trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

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## Cautions Before Assembly

### Be careful of injury when handling parts

Use caution not to injure yourself due to the protruding parts when handling the circuit board. Use cotton work gloves to protect your hands when working. Also, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly after working.

### Tighten screws and nuts at a perpendicular angle

Tightening screws and nuts that are inserted diagonally may damage the threads, making it impossible to tighten them again. Be sure to tighten screws so that they are inserted perpendicular to the surface. Use caution, as applying too much torque and tightening the screws too tightly may damage the parts.

### Do not injure yourself or scratch the surface with the tools.

When using tools to tighten screws and nuts, make sure not to injure yourself, such as by getting your fingers pinched. Work carefully to avoid scratching the case or circuit board with the tools. Provide a sufficiently large work space to complete the assembly procedure, and prepare work mats so parts will not be scratched.

### Avoid losing the screws and nuts

Handle the screws and nuts with caution, to avoid losing them. Do not use other screws or nuts aside from the ones included with this kit, and do not use the screws and nuts included with this kit for any other purpose.

## Tools to prepare

You will need the following tools in order to assemble this kit.

**Note:** You will also need the AA alkaline batteries and so on. These items are not included, so please obtain them separately.

- **Precision screwdriver (Phillips head No. 0, No. 1, flathead 2.4 mm)**  
Use a screwdriver that matches the size of the screw. Using the wrong size of screwdriver may damage the screw or make it impossible to tighten.
- **Wrench (two-sided, 10 mm wide)**

## Checking the parts

Before assembly, make sure that all parts are on hand. (Page 6, Page 8)  
Contact us at [www.nutekt.org](http://www.nutekt.org) if any parts are missing or damaged.

**TIP** If you are concerned about whether you can assemble this kit or whether you might make a mistake, refer to the video explanations available on the Web ([www.nutekt.org](http://www.nutekt.org)), or use our assembly service support (chargeable).

# Assembly

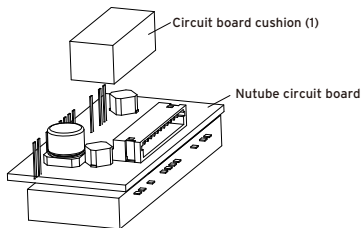
## Preparing the main circuit board and Nutube circuit board

### Parts List

1	Circuit board cushion	PORON 7t, 8x19	1
2	Cushion N1	Sponge 1t, 5x40	2
3	Cushion N2	Sponge 1t, 5x15	1
4	Harness	--	4
5	Hex spacers	M2, L=3mm	2
6	Hex spacers	M2, L=16mm	4
7	Internal tooth lock washers	M2	4
8	Screws	M2, L=5mm, Black	2

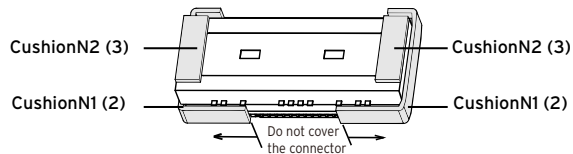
### Building the Nutube circuit board unit

1. Peel off the release paper from one side of the circuit board cushion (1), and attach it to the back side of the Nutube circuit board.



2. Attach the cushion onto the Nutube circuit board unit.

Attach cushion N1 (2) onto the edge of the Nutube circuit board. Attach cushion N2 (3) onto both upper edges of the Nutube.



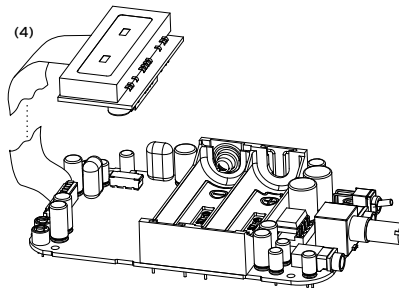
### Attaching the Nutube circuit board unit

1. Connect the Nutube circuit board unit and the main circuit board with the harness (4).

⚠ Do not use excessive force, as the wire can easily break. Also, do not repeatedly connect and disconnect the harness.

2. Remove the release paper on the circuit board cushion (1) that you attached to the Nutube circuit board, and attach the circuit board unit to the main circuit board.

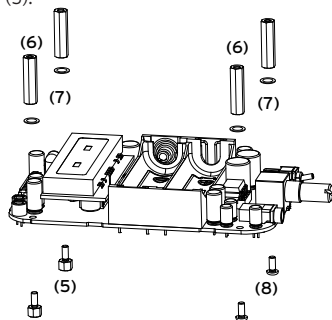
Make sure that the Nutube does not touch the adjacent parts or the case.




## Attaching the hex spacers

### 1. Mount the hex spacers (5, 6) onto the circuit board.

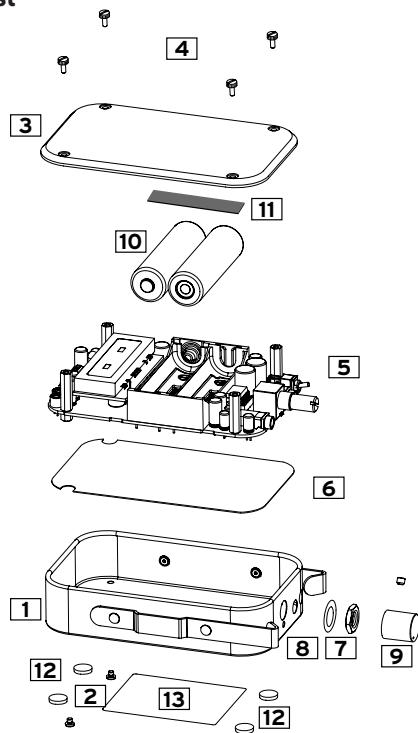
Use the screws (8) to affix the two hex spacers (6) and the internal tooth lock washers (7) for the volume and jack side. In the same way, tighten the hex spacers (6) on the Nutube circuit board side and the internal tooth lock washers (7) by tightening the screws for the lower hex spacers (5).



 Since the screws (8) cannot be retightened from the outside of the case, use a precision screwdriver (Phillips #1) to firmly tighten the screws.

## Install the main circuit board into the case

### Parts List



1	Case	Mint-tin size case	1
2	Pan head screws	M2, No.0, L=2mm, Silver	2
3	Cover	Resin treatment	1
4	Knurled screw	M2, L=6mm	4
5	Main circuit board	Parts for assembly on pages 6 and 7	1
6	Insulation sheet	PET	1
7	Volume nut	Included with Volume	1
8	Volume washer	Included with Volume	1
9	Volume knob	--	1
10	Battery	AA alkaline batteries (sold separately)	2
11	Battery cushion	1t, 30 x 10	1
12	Rubber feet	--	4
13	Rating label	--	1

 Make sure not to lose any of the small screws.

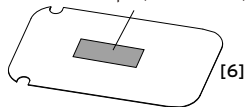


## Fix the main circuit board in place on the case

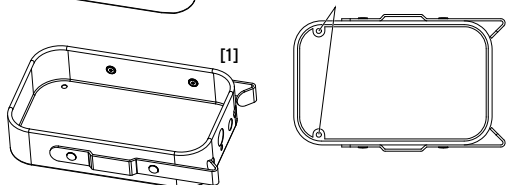
### 1. Put the insulation sheet [6] into the case [1].

Peel off the release paper on the double-sided tape attached to the insulation sheet [6], and attach it to the case [1].

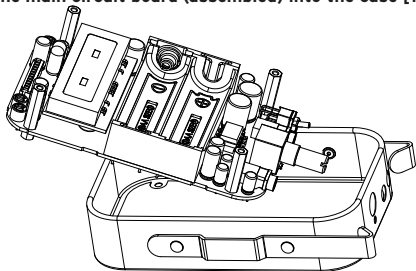
Double-sided tape (bottom side)



Be careful not to cover the screw holes.



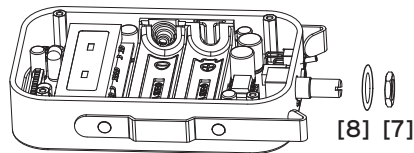
### 2. Slide the main circuit board (assembled) into the case [1] to mount.



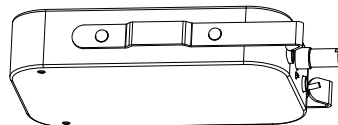
**TIP** If the volume control is attached to the circuit board using a washer and nut, remove the washer and nut and then mount the main circuit board onto the case.

### 3. Attach the washer [8] to the volume, and then use the volume nut [7] to temporarily tighten the volume onto the case.

Make sure that the stereo mini jack protrudes from the hole in the case.



### 4. Fix the main circuit board in place by screwing the pan head screws [2] into the two holes at the bottom of the case.



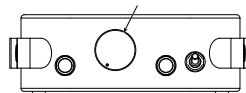
**TIP** Use a precision screwdriver (Phillips #0) to tighten the screws.

### 5. Retighten the volume nut [7] to be fixed in place.

### 6. Attach the knob [9] onto the volume.

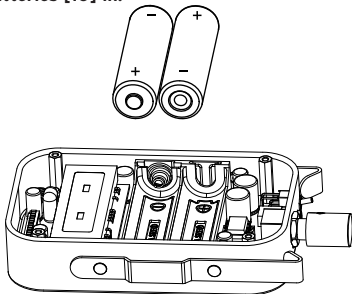
Mount the volume knob onto this spindle.


Tighten the fastener screw with a hex wrench.



## Put the batteries and close the case

1. Put the batteries [10] in.




-  Batteries are not included. You will need to purchase a commercially available AA alkaline batteries.


2. Peel off the protective sheet on the cover [3], and attach the battery cushion [11].

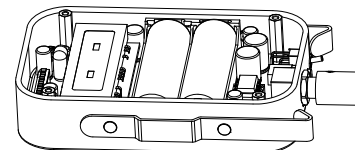
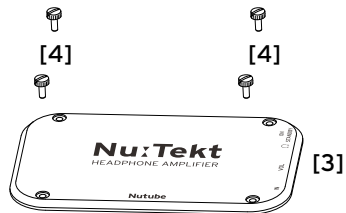
A protective sheet is attached to both sides of the cover. After peeling off the protective sheet on the back side, attach the battery cushion in the position shown in the diagram below.



3. With the printed jack names facing the jack side, put the cover [3] on, and fasten the knurled screws [4] in four places.

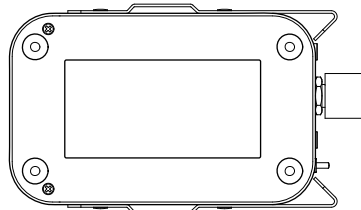
 Take care not to pinch the harness or other parts when closing the cover.

 Tighten the knurled screws by hand. Overtightening the screws using a screwdriver or other tool may damage the screws or the main unit.

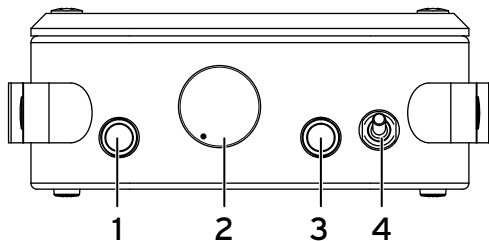


4. Attach the rubber feet [4] onto the case.

Attach the rubber feet [12] and rating label [13] so that they do not overlap, as shown in the diagram.






## Part Names and Functions



1. **IN jack:** Connect a portable music player or similar device here.
2. **VOL (VOLUME) knob:** Used for adjusting the volume.
3. **jack:** Connect a pair of headphones or stereo earphones.
4. **ON/STANDBY switch:** Turns on/off the device.

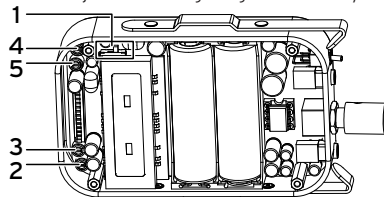
## How to Use the Nu:Tek HA-S



 Do not connect headphones, an audio player or other device to the  jack or the IN jack before turning on the power.

1. **Turn the volume all the way down (counter-clockwise), and set the ON/STANDBY switch to the upper position to turn on the power.** If the NuTube does not light up, turn off the power immediately and check to make sure that there are no mistakes in assembly.  
**TIP** Note that the brightness of the Nutube may look different from left to right.
2. **Connect a pair of headphones or earphones to the  jack, and connect an audio player or other device to the IN jack.**
3. **Adjust the volume using the VOLUME knob.** Turn the volume up gradually (clockwise) while checking the sound.

## Adjusting the main circuit board

The main circuit board comes preadjusted at the factory. The main circuit board generally does not need to be adjusted, but if you notice a difference in volume between left and right, adjust VR 4, 5, 6, and 7 to balance the levels between left and right. The tonal character will also change when adjusting the sound. Adjust the settings to get the sound you like.



1. **NFB switch:** Setting the switch to "A" will set the circuit to a non-NFB circuit. The harmonics present in the Nutube will be amplified to create a sound that is even closer to that of a vacuum tube. Setting the switch to "B" will enable the NFB circuit, offering a hi-fi sound.  
 Setting the switch to "A" will increase the output level, due to the characteristics of the circuit .  
 The vacuum tube effect will change depending on the output level of the device connected to the input of the HA-S. Although, the effect is more prominent at higher levels, if the sound distorts, however, adjust by lowering the levels.
2. **BIAS(L)(VR6)**
3. **BIAS(R)(VR7):** This sets the Nutube bias voltage. Adjust VR6 and 7 while listening to the sound, in order to achieve maximum volume.
4. **Anode Load(L)(VR4)**
5. **Anode Load(R)(VR5):** This adjusts the Nutube's anode load resistance. In general, the unit is used with VR 4 and 5 turned all the way to the right. However, since the tonal character of the sound changes according to the load resistance, adjust VR 4 and 5 to get the sound that you like.  
**TIP** Turning the fixed resistors (VR 4, 5) all the way to the left will result in no sound.  
**TIP** You may hear a crackling sound when turning the VR4, 5, 6 or 7 fixed resistors while playing sound, but this is not a malfunction.

## Troubleshooting

When you have successfully finished assembling the unit, test its operation while reading “Part Names and Functions” .

If you have found any problems with assembly or operation, use the troubleshooting steps below.

### Some parts are left over.

- The kit may contain some extra parts that are not used, such as resistors or capacitors.

### There aren't enough parts.

- If you have lost some parts, contact us at [www.nutekt.org](http://www.nutekt.org).
- Also, contact us at [www.nutekt.org](http://www.nutekt.org) if any parts were missing or damaged before you started to assemble the unit.

### I can't assemble the unit, because I broke a part.

- Please contact us at [www.nutekt.org](http://www.nutekt.org).

### The unit makes an abnormal sound when I tilted it or shook it after assembly.

- A loose screw or other part might be left inside the unit. Open the lower case and check the inside.


### The volume or jacks are loose.

- Make sure that the nuts are fastened tightly. Remove the knobs from the volume and retighten the nuts.

### The sound is distorted.




- The input levels may be set too high. Adjust the volume level on the input device.

### A pop noise is heard when turning on the power


- This product makes a popping sound when the power is turned on, This is not a malfunction because the muting circuit is not equipped in pursuit of the superior sound. Connect a pair of headphones or the like to the  jack after you turn on the power.

## Replacing the operational amplifier

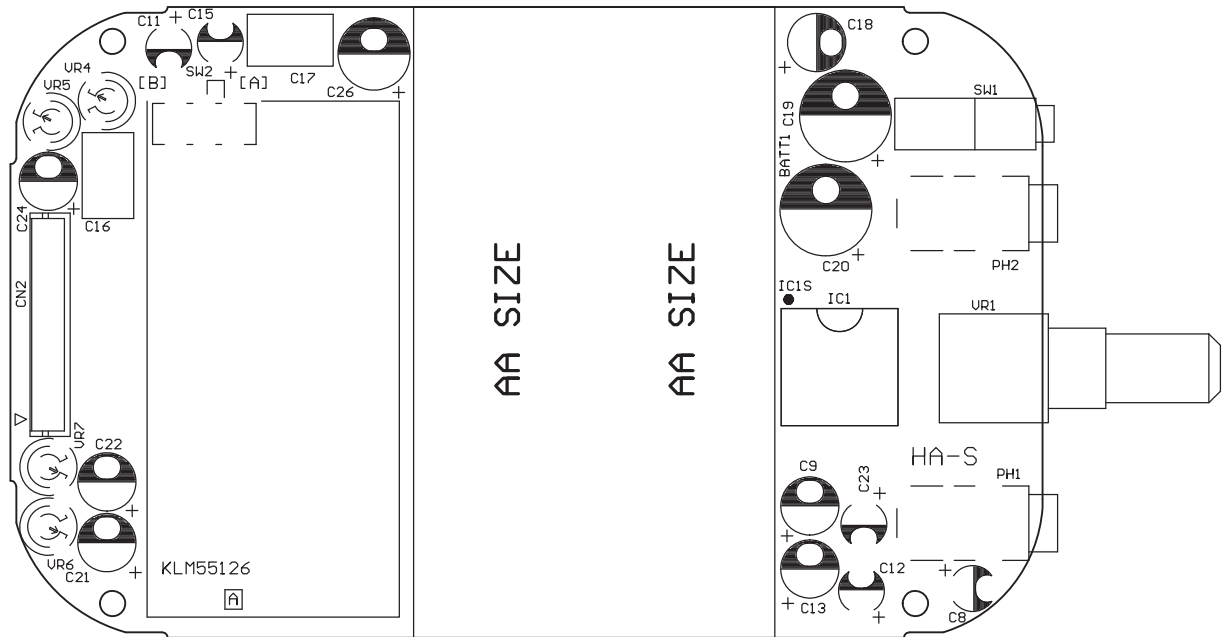
The operational amplifier can be replaced with a DIP8 type operational amplifier. The power supply for the OP amp is a 24–28 V single power supply system. When replacing the operational amplifier, be sure that the replacement uses the same rated voltage.

-  Replacing the operational amplifier with any other operational amplifier besides the one included with this kit is to be done on your own responsibility.
-  Use care when replacing the operational amplifier, so as not to bend or break the legs.
-  Make sure that the components to mount are faced correctly when replacing the operational amplifier. Install the pin #1 of the operational amplifier (shown with a mark) so that it lines up with the dot on the circuit board.

## Specifications

- **Vacuum tube:** Nutube 6P1
- **Connectors and jacks:** IN jack (stereo mini phone jack),  jack (stereo mini phone jack)
- **Controls:** Volume, NFB switch (internal)
- **Output impedance:** 10Ω; recommended load: 15Ω or greater
- **Power:** AA alkaline batteries (sold separately)
- **Battery life:** Approx. 9 hr. (using alkaline batteries)
- **Dimensions (W x D x H):** 111 x 65 x 29 mm / 4.37" x 2.56" x 1.14"
- **Weight:** 110 g / 3.88 oz. (without batteries)
- **Included items:** Owner's Manual
- \* Specifications and appearance are subject to change without notice for improvement.

# Mounting Diagram



# List of mounted parts

## Main circuit board

Part number	Circuit number	Part name	Rating	Quantity
1	IC1	Operational amplifier	NJM4580	1
			MUSES01	1
2	IC1S	Operational amplifier socket	8pin DIP	1
3	C10, C14	Chip ceramic capacitor	10PF CH	2
4	C27, C28	Chip ceramic capacitor	0.0022 $\mu$ F B	2
5	C16, C17	Film capacitor	0.012 $\mu$ F FILM	2
6	C8, C11, C12, C15, C23	Electrolytic capacitor	10 $\mu$ F/25V	5
7	C9, C13	Non-polar capacitor	10 $\mu$ F/25V BP	2
8	C21, C22	Electrolytic capacitor	47 $\mu$ F/16V	2
9	C26	Electrolytic capacitor	100 $\mu$ F/35V	1
10	C19, C20	Electrolytic capacitor	220 $\mu$ F/25V	2
11	C24	Electrolytic capacitor	220 $\mu$ F/6.3V	1
12	C18	Electrolytic capacitor	OPEN	--
13	R16	Chip resistor	0	1
14	R29, R30	Chip resistor	10 1/4W	2
15	R32	Chip resistor	1K	1

Part number	Circuit number	Part name	Rating	Quantity
16	R35, R36	Chip resistor	4.7K	2
17	R6, R7, R21, R24, R26, R28	Chip resistor	10K	6
18	R8, R9	Chip resistor	22K	2
19	R10, R12, R17, R18	Chip resistor	47K	4
20	R14, R15, R20, R23	Chip resistor	100K	4
21	BATT1	Battery box	BATTERY BOX	1
22		"+" side electrode	--	2
23		"-" side electrode	--	2
24	CN2	Connector	B12B-ZR	1
25	PH1, PH2	Stereo mini phone jack	PJ-321	2
26	SW2	Slide switch	MK-22D10-G2	1
27	SW1	Toggle switch	2UD1-T1	1
28	VR6, VR7	Trimmer Potentiometer	10K B	2
29	VR1	Volume	100K A	1
30	VR4, VR5	Trimmer Potentiometer	200K B	2

## Nutube circuit board

Part number	Circuit number	Part name	Rating	Quantity
31	IC3	Voltage regulator	TLV61046A	1
32	IC2	Voltage regulator	TPS62510	1
33	Q1, Q2	J-FET	2SK209	2
34	C4	Chip ceramic capacitor	22PF CH	1
35	C5	Chip ceramic capacitor	0.001 $\mu$ F B	1
36	C3	Chip ceramic capacitor	0.1 $\mu$ F B	1
37	C6	Chip ceramic capacitor	4.7 $\mu$ F B	1
38	C7	Chip ceramic capacitor	4.7 $\mu$ F B	1
39	C1, C2	Chip ceramic capacitor	22 $\mu$ F B	2
40	C25	Chip Electrolytic capacitor	390 $\mu$ F/2.5V	1
41	C29, C30, C31, C32	Chip ceramic capacitor	10 $\mu$ F B	4
42	R33	Chip resistor	0	1
43	R1	Chip resistor	1	1
44	R31	Chip resistor	6.2	1
45	R11, R13	Chip resistor	10K	2
46	R3, R5	Chip resistor	62K	2
47	R2	Chip resistor	120K	1
48	R4	Chip resistor	2M	1
49	R34	Chip resistor	OPEN	--
50	L1	Chip inductor	2.2 $\mu$ H	1
51	L2	Chip inductor	10 $\mu$ H	1
52	CN1	Connector	S12B-ZR	1
53	V1	Nutube (vacuum tube)	Nutube 6P1	1

# CIRCUIT DIAGRAM

