

HICKOK 539B/C PLATE CURRENT MODIFICATION By William Eccher

The Plate Current jumper is removed from the jacks and installed on the Cathode Current jacks for safe keeping even though you will probably never use them again.

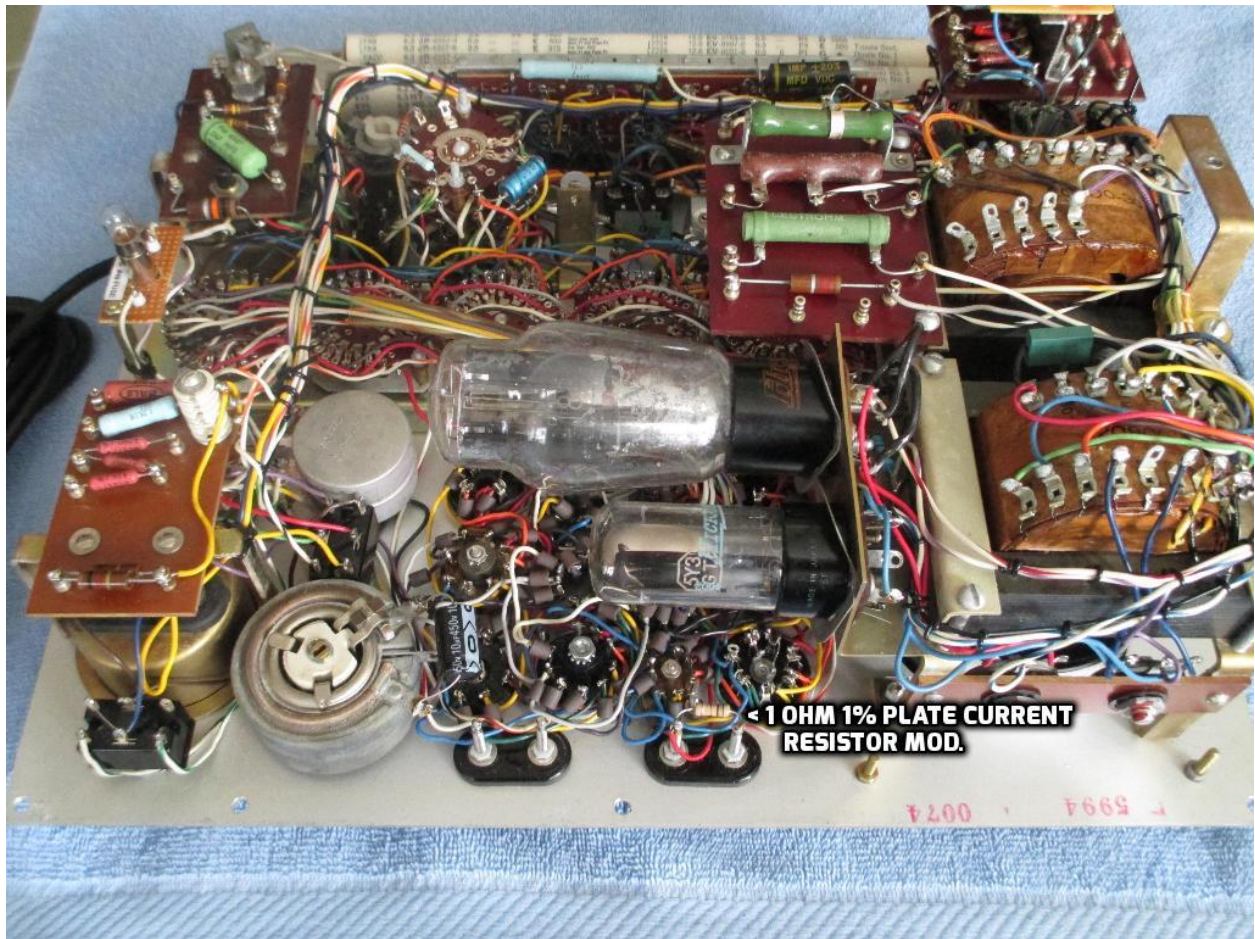
A 1.0 ohm 1.0% resistor is soldered across the Plate Current terminals in the tester.

Now connect any Digital Multimeter that has a 200mV range to the Plate Jacks and the reading in **mV will equal mA** of plate current. This application of ohms law gives us a simple way to measure Plate Current without breaking the circuit to insert a Current Meter. You only need to connect the multimeter when testing for Plate Current, since the resistor inside the tester completes the Plate Circuit.

Your Hickok tube tester now gives you a very accurate reading of the Plate Current to balance your output tubes. Of course you can use it as a measurement for any tube tested even the 12AX7 tubes that only draw around 1 mA of Plate Current.



A 6L6 being tested with a 539B showing Gm & PLATE CURRENT.



This is a 539C showing the resistor placement and that would be the same for a 539B.

The later 539C models have the tube mounting assembly turned over as shown in this picture.