

# DATING CONTEMPORARY FENDER AMPLIFIERS

All Fender amplifiers manufactured from 1990 to the present include a date code, printed on the quality assurance (QA) sticker on the back of the amp chassis. This black-and-silver sticker contains several lines for “sign-offs” on completion of sound and electrical testing. The final line contains a date code of two printed or handwritten letters denoting the amplifier’s production date by year (the first letter) and month (the second letter).

In the table below, for example, a “CE” date code indicates a production date of May 1992.

YEAR		MONTH	
1990	A	January	A
1991	B	February	B
1992	C	March	C
1993	D	April	D
1994	E	May	E
1995	F	June	F
1996	G	July	G
1997	H	August	H
1998	I	September	I
1999	J	October	J
2000	K	November	K
		December	L

# DATING 1951-69 AMPLIFIERS USING THE TUBE CHART

On the inside of the cabinets of most Fender amps made after 1950 and before 1970, there might be a “tube location” sticker. This sticker is a chart that shows the types of tube types used and the order of their physical location in the amplifier, and may be rubber-stamped with two-letter date codes that denote the year (first letter) and month (second letter) of production. These stamped letters may appear in various positions on the chart.

In the table below, for example, a “JE” date code indicates a production date of May 1960.

YEAR		MONTH	
1951	A	January	A
1952	B	February	B
1953	C	March	C
1954	D	April	D
1955	E	May	E
1956	F	June	F
1957	G	July	G
1958	H	August	H
1959	I	September	I
1960	J	October	J
1961	K	November	K
1962	L	December	L
1963	M		
1964	N		
1965	O		
1966	P		
1967	Q		
1968	R		
1969	S		

## DATING AMPLIFIERS USING TRANSFORMER CODES

In general, Fender amps that don't have rubber-stamped tube sticker date codes have EIA numbers on their transformers that might enable determination of the production date. These numbers always begin with "EIA 606," and are followed by three or four digits in various combinations.

If three digits are present, the first digit refers to the year (i.e., a "7" would mean 1967). If four digits are present, the first two digits refer to the year (i.e., a "66" would mean 1966). The last two digits refer to the week of the year (i.e., a "26" would mean the 26th week or, roughly, June). For example, EIA 606-4-21 would denote the 21st week of 1964. It is also advisable to add about 6 months to the date to allow for time these parts may have spent in inventory storage.