

Alpha 76CA (3x8874 w/Hipersil transformer)

Serial Number: 5417

Testing: February 2004

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Produced mid-1978, first few months of production.

Purchased: from Tony Rogozinski N7BG, September 2003

Price: \$1250

Tubes in amp as purchased (3x8874)

S/n: G8FD3682 Date Code: 78?? (unreadable)

S/n: G8HD8005 Date Code: 7830

S/n: G8FD3711 Date Code: 7829

All testing was performed with the amplifier powered from a stiff 240V line.

Tested On 14.025 MHz

	HV = 1400V	HV = 2150V
Drive (Watts)	Output (Watts)	Output (Watts)
30	520	-
52	800	1050
80	995	1340
100	1120	1600

Note: Tripped grid protection circuit with 100W drive on 14.025 MHz while tweaking tuning controls, so that protection circuit works OK!

Tested On 28.025 MHz

	HV = 1400V	HV = 2150V
Drive (Watts)	Output (Watts)	Output (Watts)
30	520	-
52	-	1050
80	916	1313
100	-	1475 (HV under load = 1850V)

Amplifier works as expected, and tubes are in remarkably good shape for being 26 years old! Tuning is smooth and consistent, with band starting points from the manual being very close to the final tuning points on the bands tried (160, 20, 10).

Power cord was replaced (insulation was scraped and flaking off), and a screw in the power terminal strip was drilled-out (how could someone have twisted the head off a screw in a terminal strip? I dunno!) . It was a bit dusty inside, which I cleaned up with moist wipes and canned air.

The proper (15A) ceramic fuses are in the amp. A BNC female has been mounted for RF Input, replacing the RCA jack originally used on these amps.

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I found a piece of masking tape affixed to the Hipersil transformer with a hand-written note identifying an owner of this amp (by serial number) as Gerry Crosby. I know him (he's WB8YUO), and in fact I believe that I've contested with this very amplifier before!

No visible signs of abuse, other than a discolored area on the front panel (upper left, above the "ETO") where a sticker was affixed. The front panel has a smooth, brushed-aluminum finish, unlike the black or tan panels I've seen in the past.



Outstanding problems:

1. Missing 12 of 16 cabinet screws;
2. Plate Current Meter (left meter) green lamp is not working.
3. The HV-shorting interlock switch does not work. This is a springy piece of sheet metal that shorts the HV to ground if the cabinet is opened, and the piece of metal has lost its spring.
4. Color inserts in "CW" and "SSB" switches don't work to show status (SSB always Orange, CW always Black).
5. Color insert in "On" button is not visible (always Black).