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I'm wondering what the expected lifetime is for electrolytic capacitors in recent years. I'm sure temperature and operating voltage play a role.

The reason I'm asking is that I recently replaced the electrolytic capacitors in the power supply of a 23-year-old Fluke signal generator I own. One of them was "bulging" so I replaced all the large electrolytics in the supply, and for good measure, the tantalum ones as well. The supply voltages are now cleaner.

There are a number of other electrolytics on the various circuit boards in the synthesizer. I've already replaced a few of them as a precaution, e.g. 16V, 220uF caps across +/-15V supply lines. However, all the others are operating well below their rated voltage, and I'm wondering if it's worth replacing them while I have the synthesizer apart.

-Dave

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