

Re: What is the expected lifetime for an electrolytic capacitor?

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- *From:* "Dave Plowman (News)" <dave@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 22 Mar 2007 13:59:34 +0000 (GMT)
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In article <1174570113.266571.292880@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, <meow2222@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

I'm no fan of replacing good caps with other good caps that are just as likely to fail, but if you've found bad caps in there then any others the same make are probably best replaced.

On many consumer goods \*all\* the electrolytics are the same make. I'm not in favour of the shotgun approach unless you are certain there were batch etc problems at manufacture.

Coincidentally, I've just fixed four identical radio tuners all with the same fault. They were installed in a hotel and were on 24/7 power, and all failed within a short time of one another. The fifth one strangely still works ok.

The fault was a 22 $\mu$ F 63v electrolytic which is in series with one transformer winding and that rectifier followed by a voltage regulator. Dunno why they used this rather strange – to me – arrangement. Three were open circuit on my ESR meter – the fourth read 55 ohms. It took some finding as the output from the (discrete) voltage reg circuit was 5 volts instead of 30 and not being able to read the zener value without removal I assumed 5 volts was the correct amount...

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\*"I am " is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. \*

Dave Plowman dave@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx London SW  
To e-mail, change noise into sound.

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