

Re: Do electrolytic capacitors blow up when old?

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2007-11/msg01455.html>

- *From:* "hr(bob) hofmann@xxxxxxx" <hrhofmann@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 30 Nov 2007 14:17:25 -0800 (PST)
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On Nov 30, 11:38 am, JW <n...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

On Fri, 30 Nov 2007 09:07:28 -0800 (PST) "hr(bob) hofm...@xxxxxxx" <hrhofm...@xxxxxxx> wrote in Message id: <a0d04488-c351-48b7-814b-8907ad7cd...@xx>:

It is fairly important to use them regularly, like once or twice every couple of months, to keep the internal chemistry formed.

By any chance, do you have any cites for that? Thanks.

I have 44 years of experience at Bell Laboratories, dealing with reliability and other electronic-related quality issues like electromagnetic compatibility. I also have done electronics repairs for 50 years, putting myself thru college doing tv repairs, which I still do.

I agree 100% with the other posters. If the capacitors were to get leaky enough to start to heat up internally, they would most likely load down the power supply and reach a steady-state condition short of exploding.

Exploding usually results from rapid heating when whatever internal mechanism exists for releasing the hot gasses does not get a chance to react due to sudden, rapid heating. If the capacitors are being charged from a lower voltage – almost always the case – there simply is not enough energy capability to heat them fast enough to cause an explosion before the venting can take effect. As I and several other posters said, those capacitors were not the dime a dozen type manufactured today.

H. R.(Bob) Hofmann

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