

**Excerpts from: Master Builders: Lance Cochrane And Jim Nicholls
Review By Dick Olsher, October 2010, Enjoy the Music.com**

“...Even a quick listen to the JWN 807 was sufficient to convince me that it merits comparison with far more expensive gear. Even with the stock tube complement, it boogied with uncommon verve unleashing an exceptional microdynamic palette. It threw a huge soundstage. Textures were smooth, rich with that big tone sound a 6SN7 is famous for. Colors were vivid, approaching the saturation of the real thing. Bass definition and control were surprisingly good; I would not have guessed that I was listening to pentode bass. And it was remarkably quiet.

Things got even better when I started experimenting with alternative 807 types. The best to date turned out to be a Sylvania JAN 5933 dating from 1952. The 5933 is a ruggedized 807 with a T12 bulb on a wide base. It isn't as sexy looking as the 807, but in this amp it provides more spacing between the tubes for better cooling. I also rolled in Mullard box anode CV4003 for the stock Sylvania 12AU7. Outfitted in this manner, image focus and soundstage transparency improved significantly. Partnered with the Mystère CA21 tube line stage, I can honestly say that I've never experienced more palpable image outlines. A reach-out-and-touch-someone realistic reproduction, perhaps the best money can buy. It became easy to peer deep into the soundstage. Although not a champ with respect to low-level detail, it was still possible to resolve transient decay and clearly identify vocal overdubs. The midrange was now to die for. Female voice timbre was stunningly realistic. Female vocals were projected with lovely harmonic bloom and fully intact emotional content. With the exception of the deep bass, the JWN 807 in my estimation exceeds the performance of the iconic Marantz 8B and Harman Kardon Citation II power amps. It projects a satisfying musical experience that should appeal to music lovers seeking to connect with the soul of the music. You would have to spend on the order of \$10K retail to reach a similar level of musical satisfaction.”