



Fig. 9—Basic configuration of the cascode power amplifier.

considerably beyond what the rated power would suggest. This effect is pronounced at high transient levels and imparts a sense of effortlessness in the reproduction of demanding material.

While the distortion characteristics of a fully cascode amplifier are not equivalent to those obtained through class-A operation, the lack of signal compression produces a subjective "ease" to the reproduced sound that closely approximates that of the smooth nonlinearities which characterize class-A operation and are achieved without the cost penalties attendant to a class-A output stage.