

6844 / HB-106 – Nixie Indicator



HB-106, later registered as 6844, was the first Nixie indicator. Nixie was a registered trade mark of Burroughs. The tube was first introduced as HB-106 in 1955, as shown in [this ad](#) from the December issue of Electronics. The prefix HB stays for Haydu Brothers, the small tube manufacturer that was bought by Burroughs when they decided to start their own vacuum tube production.

Although quite complex as per electrode assembly, the operating principle of Nixie tubes was very simple, equivalent to the one of neon lamps. Ten electrodes, each shaped as a digit from 0 to 9, were stacked over a common anode in the bottom of the neon-filled envelope. Nixie displays were ideally suited to operate as indicators for the trochotron counter line introduced by the same manufacturer.

RMA registration record [1821](#).

