

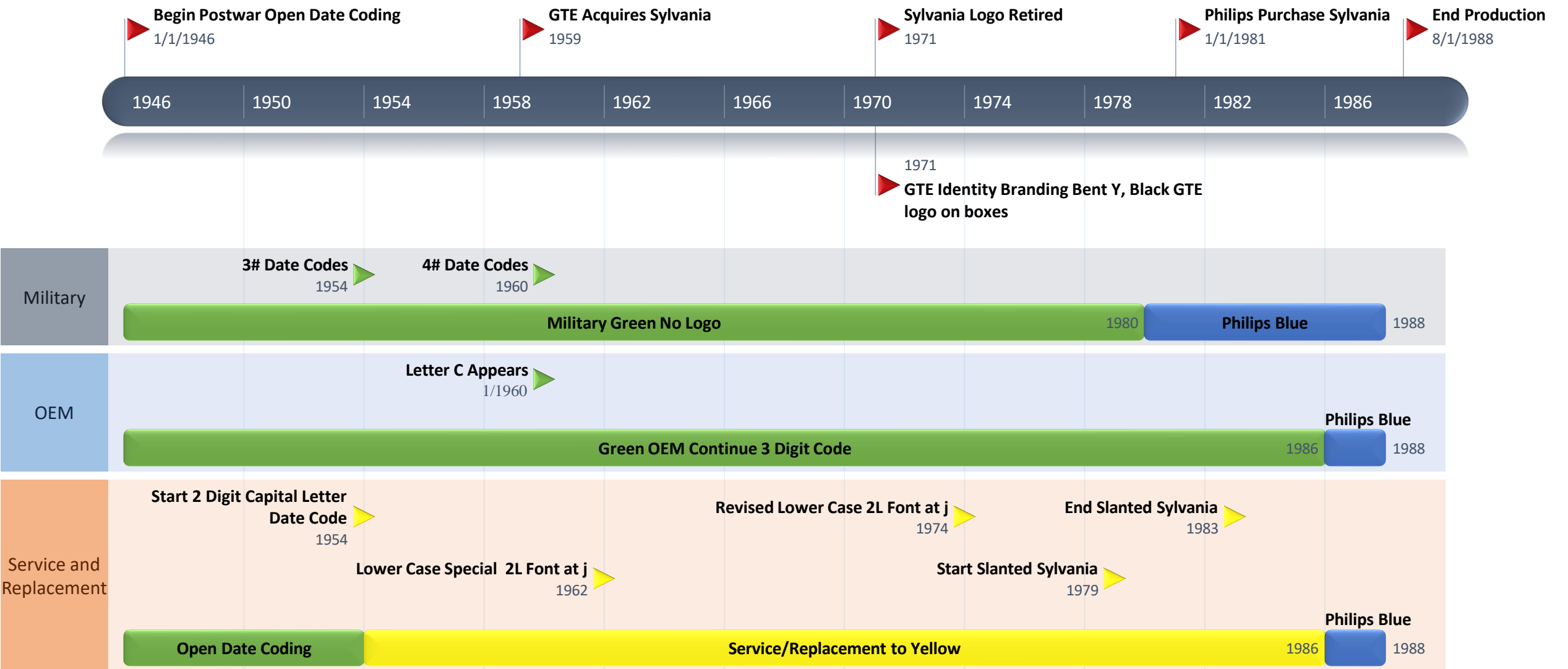
Breaking the Sylvania Date Code Structure

Paul Hart

MAARC December 20, 2020

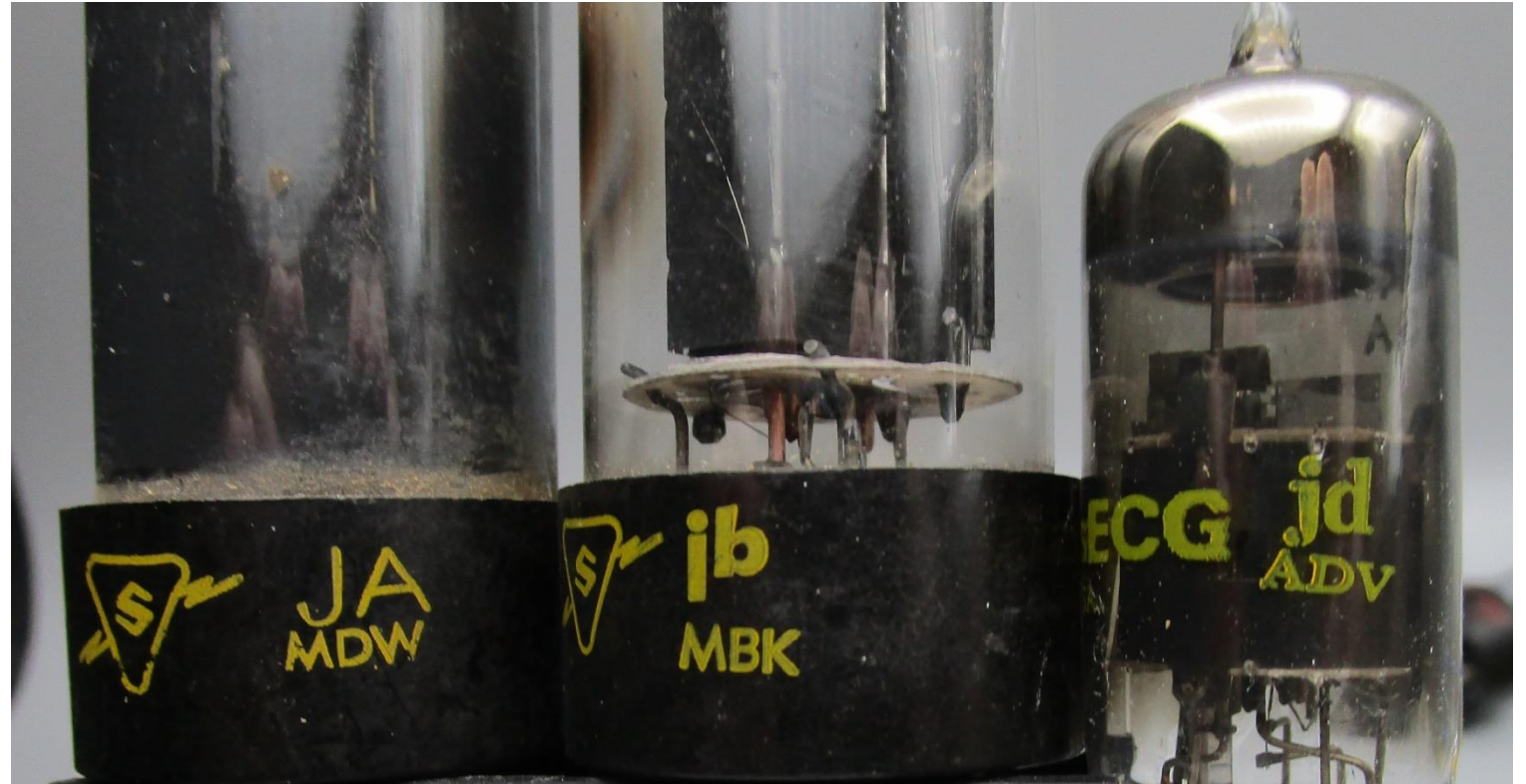
Brief Review of the Code(s)

Sources for Information



Evolution of the 2 character date code

1. First Style of capital letter date code, 1954-1962
2. Second style, unique sans serif, start 1962 until gradual changeover in 1974
3. Third style, serif format used until end of production. Note appearance of ECG.



Evolution of the Sylvania Brand marking

1. Early version, straight lettering, Sylvania “Thunderbolt” triangle logo.
2. Thicker lettering, GTE logo style with Bent Y, Sylvania logo dropped – 1971.
3. Slanted font 1979- 1983. In later years, successive owners of Sylvania name continue use of this font style to the present.



Sources of Information

- **Previous decoding of date codes of other manufacturers, RCA, GE, European Codes**
- **Thousands of tubes**
- **Publications, Sylvania's own and Commercial**
- **United States Patent and Trade Office**
- **Tube Boxes**
- **eBay**

Thousands of Tubes

Crossovers from other manufacturers

First breakthrough with RCA. Many others to follow, GE, Mullard, Philips–Amperex, Holland.



Harmonization within Sylvania



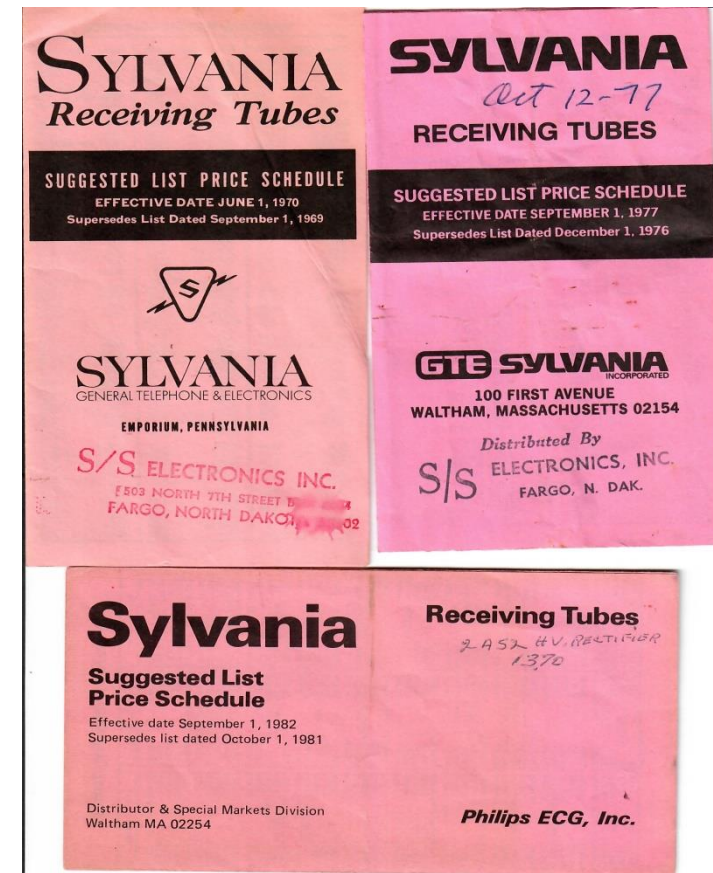
Publications

Newspapers

Sylvania built a state of the art tube manufacturing plant in Altoona, PA in 1958. That facility played a major role in the economics of the area to the end of production. Sylvania activities were reported in detail by the Altoona Mirror.

Altoona Mirror

Sylvania's own Publications



Sylvania's own Publications

Tube Characteristics Copr. 1959


Subsidiary of GT&E

7 Manufacturing Centers



**ADVANCED
ADVANCED
ADVANCED** design
manufactory techniques
quality control methods are
the reasons why the exacting
quality standards for

**SYLVANIA
RECEIVING TUBES**
are maintained in
7 manufacturing centers.


THE WORLD'S MOST MODERN RECEIVING TUBE MANUFACTURING CENTER IS SYLVANIA'S ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA PLANT.




EMPORIUM, PENNSYLVANIA HEAD-QUARTERS FOR SYLVANIA'S FAR FLUNG RECEIVING TUBE MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS.




MILL HALL, PENNSYLVANIA




BROOKVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA



SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA



WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA



BURLINGTON, IOWA

Sylvania News



FIGURE 1

The new, Sylvania developed, 5U4GB will be shipped in the redesigned, distinctive yellow and black tube carton—the calling card for the high Quality Sylvania tube inside.

OCTOBER 1954

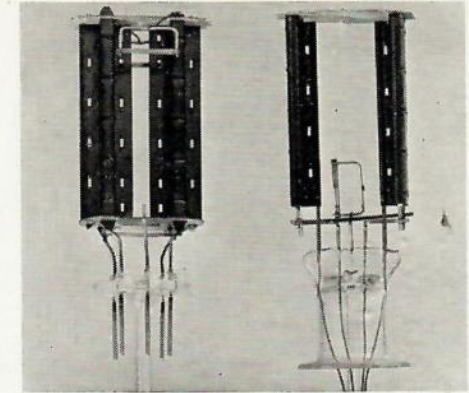


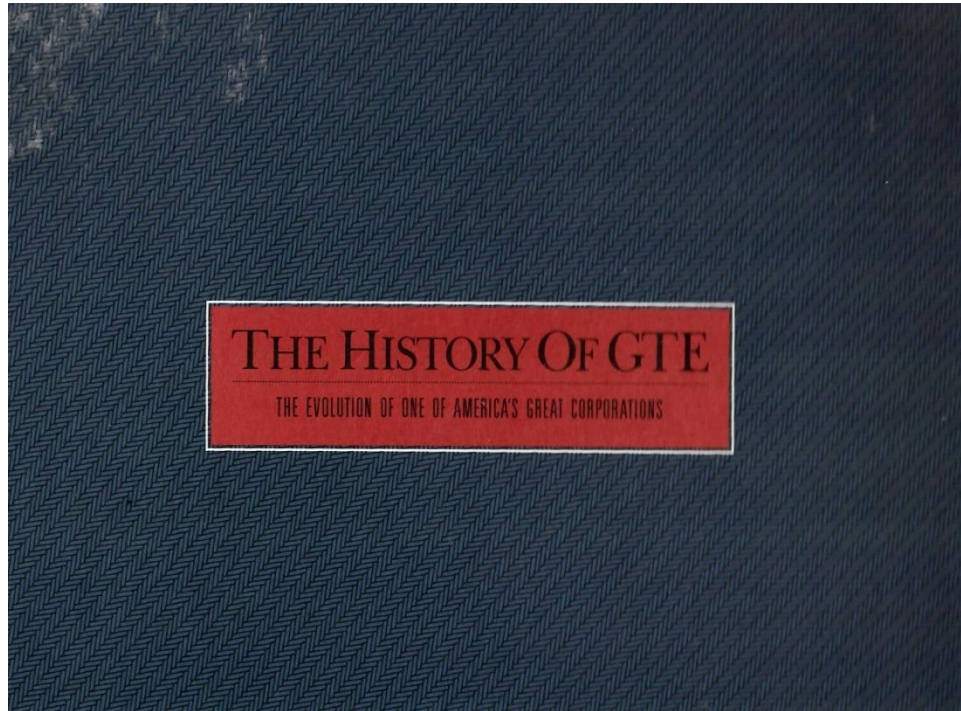
FIGURE 2

Tube mount and stems for the Sylvania Type 5U4G, on the right, and 5U4GB, on the left. Notice the two supporting (top and bottom) micas on the 5U4GB and more rugged overall appearance.

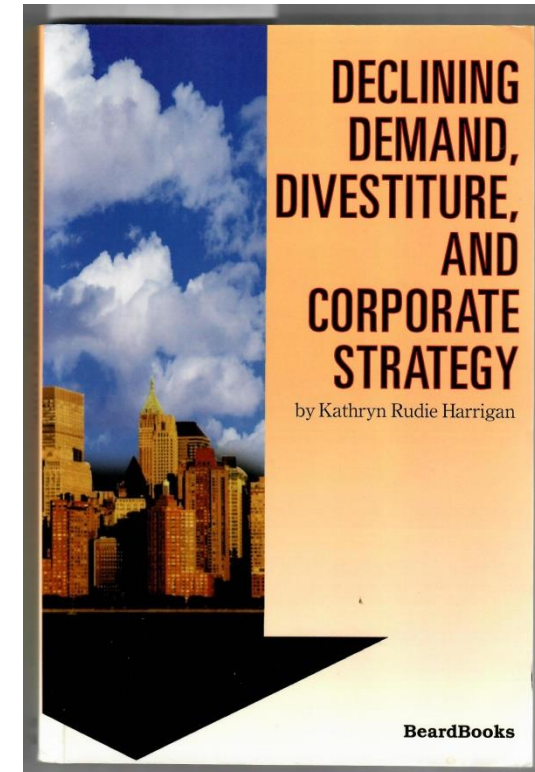
Sylvania News

Commercial Publications

**Major source of information on
Sylvania during GTE ownership**



**Study of endgame strategies for withdrawal
from dying markets. Copyright 1980,
reprinted 2003. Vacuum tubes pages 59-104.**



United States Patent and Trade Office

Tube Boxes

Long standing relationship with Eureka Paper Box Company in Williamsport

Correct tube in this box would have to be marked Philips ECG and dated after Dec. 1984



Two tube boxes, pre GTE Corp. identity change in 1971 on left, after rebranding on right.



eBay

An Incredible Coincidence and Validation

Date notation with greater granularity than the date code provides.



fl code = “bakers dozen” allowance

