A cascode is an arrangement of electronic active devices that combines two different Class amplifier stages into one stage for increased output Impedance and reduced parrisitic capacitence thus resulting in high Voltage gain with increased High frequency response. The cascode arrangement usually refers specifically to the combination of a transconductance amplifier stage with a current buffer stage.

The cascode is an universal technique for improving Amplifire performance, applicable to both vaccuum Tubes and Transistors . The word was first used in an article by F.V. Hunt and R.W. Hickman in 1939 They proposed a cascade of two Trode vaccuum tube stages. The first stage used a common cathode design equlivilent to the common emitter stage if refering transistors as opposed to tubes with common cathode, the second one with common grid) as a replacement of a pentode and Thus the Cascode was no longer used with the widespread availability of pentode type vaccuum tubes. However with the advent of transistor technology the effect of device interelectrode capacitence became inportent as the transistor became used more and more in VHF and UHF applications. The issue of large interelectrode capacitence rears it's ulgly head again and thus the Cascode is brought from the grave to transport High frequency radio comunications from hot unreliable vaccuum tube technoligy to cool reliable power efficient mode of comunications. See Transistor Cascode Topology