

Suncoast

CUSTOM AMPLIFICATION



Dick Bauerle – **Skyline Special**
CUSTOM 50 GUITAR AMPLIFIER
OWNERS MANUAL

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1.1 Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the SUNCOAST “Dick Bauerle” Skyline Special CUSTOM 50 guitar amplifier. It is our commitment to providing our customers with the highest quality, handcrafted musical instrument amplifiers, built in the USA. Utilizing our knowledge of classic designs from the past 50 years, we set out to recreate that unique sound of some of our personal favorite artists. The Custom 50 is a medium wattage amp whose preamp design is based around the late 80’s “D” amp with the skyliner mods. These amps were hand made for artists like Robben Ford and Larry Carlton which gave them their distinctive tone. Some of HAD’s other early amps used a pair of EL34 output tubes. Our Custom 50A utilizes an upgraded output transformer design coupled to a matched pair of 6L6GC’s to emulate the response of the original “D” amp. The result is a clean, classic “Black Face Twin” tone with Overdrive. Our Custom 50B amp uses EL34 output tubes for that bold, aggressive British tone. Similarly, we re-designed the phase inverter circuit and presence control to add in the dynamic, touch sensitive compression and presence reminiscent of a vintage Marshall. Now you have the Ultimate Tone Chaser amp perfect for club or studio use.

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1.2 Features

The following is a summary of your Custom 50's unique features:

- 50 Watt all tube head
- Classic single channel preamp with Overdrive
- Hand made in the USA
- 2 x 6L6GC JJ (Custom 50A) or EL-34 Mullard (Custom 50B) matched power tubes
- 5 x 12AX7 JJ preamp tubes
- Normal and FET buffered input jacks with FET Level control
- 4 band EQ featuring Treble, Middle, Bass and Presence controls
- Bright switch, Mid boost switch and Deep switch for tone shaping
- Rock/Jazz switch for 2 distinct tone stack selections
- PAB Preamp Boost with Level control and Normal/Flat switch
- Master volume, Level and Ratio controls
- Attenuated speaker tapped Pre Out jack
- Tube buffered Effects Loop with Send and Return level controls
- Tube buffered Accutronics Digi-Log reverb module - Long Decay
- 4, 8 and 16 ohm Impedance Selector Switch
- USA made custom power and output transformers with high grade M6 steel laminations
- Mil Spec 1/2W, 1% metal film resistors
- German F+T power supply filter capacitors
- Limited lifetime warranty
- Dimensions: 8" (H) x 20" (W) x 9" (D)

2.1 Front Panel Layout



2.2 Preamp Controls

Normal & FET Inputs - Hi and Lo gain instrument input jacks.

PAB & FET Gain Controls – Preamp Boost and FET Input gain controls.

PAB Normal/Flat Switch – This switch selects Normal or Flat PAB Boost.

Volume – This control adjusts the input volume of the preamp.

Bright Switch – This switch adds High Frequency Boost.

Treble - This tone control adjusts the amount of high frequencies

Mid Switch – This switch adds Mid Frequency Boost.

Middle - This tone control adjusts the amount of midrange frequencies.

Rock/Jazz Switch – This switch selects between different EQ tone stacks.

Bass – This tone control adjusts the amount of low frequencies.

Deep Switch – This switch adds an extra 10dB of Midrange Frequency Cut.

Level - This control adjusts the Overdrive amount.

OD Switch – This switch engages the Overdrive.

Ratio - This control adjusts the Overdrive output level.

Master - This control adjusts the overall Volume to the power amplifier.

Presence - This tone control adjusts the amount of upper high frequencies.

Indicator Lamp – Lights up when power is ON.

2.3 Rear Panel Layout



2.4 Rear Panel Jack Description

Power Input - Power line cord input jack.

Main Fuse – AC Main power fuse. Replace with only same type and rating.

Main Power Switch – Turns the amp ON/OFF.

Standby Power Switch - Unit standby power switch. Allow one minute warm up before turning the standby switch ON to extend tube life.

B+ Fuse - High Voltage power supply fuse.

Main Speaker Output Jack – Use this jack for an 8-16 Ohm speaker.

Extension Speaker Output Jack - Use this jack for an 8-16 Ohm speaker.

Speaker Load Selector Switch – Selects amplifier load 4, 8, or 16 ohms.

FS-6 Footswitch Jack - Use this jack for the Suncoast FS-6 footswitch.

Rev Switch – Reverb ON/OFF switch.

Reverb Control – Reverb volume adjust.

Preamp Output Jack - Line level output to PA or slave power amp. This output is a line level attenuated signal taken from the 8 ohm speaker output.

Effects Return Jack and Level Control - Input from external effects unit. This is a tube buffered line level input to the phase inverter and power amp.

Effects Send Jack and Level Control - Output to external effects unit. This output is a post Master Volume tube buffered line level output.

FX switch – Effects Loop ON/OFF switch.

3.1 Operating Instructions

- Always connect the loudspeaker to the correct speaker output jack impedance prior to turning the unit ON.
- Use only correct 2-conductor speaker wire (16 gauge or greater) with mono ¼” ends. The use of coaxial instrument cable (guitar cord) for connecting speakers will invalidate your warranty and may damage your amplifier.
- Always connect the unit to the proper power source and use a grounded outlet, otherwise a shock hazard may result, especially when the unit is connected to other equipment. Domestic units should be connected to 115VAC, 60 Hz. Connection to improper line voltage will cause permanent damage.
- Do not expose this unit to rain or excessive moisture. This may cause a shock hazard or damage to the unit.
- Do not block the ventilation grilles on the rear panel of the amplifier head or top panel of the combo amp.
- Do not touch the output tubes while the unit is ON, severe burns can occur.

CAUTION: Make sure you select the proper speaker load. Using multiple cabinets will overheat your output transformer if not matched.

WARNING: You MUST have a speaker load connected to this amp at all times. Operating the Custom 50 with no load will burn out your output tubes and could destroy the output transformer. This will void your warranty!

SAFETY NOTICE: Do not open the unit. There are no user serviceable parts inside the unit. Refer servicing to qualified personnel only. Extremely high voltages are present inside this unit that may result in severe injury or death.

3.2 External Effects Patching

Here is a list of effects in their respective order that can be used to achieve your Ultimate Tone. The rest of the magic is in your hands:

Guitar

|

Fuzz

Overdrive/Sustainer

Phase Shifter

Flanger

Wah

Compressor

Chorus

|

Amplifier (NORMAL Input)

Amplifier (Effects Send)

|

Volume Pedal

Digital Delay

Reverb/Echo

Noise Gate/Line Driver

|

Amplifier (Effects Return)

3.3 Amplifier Tone Settings

These settings are merely a suggested starting point from which you can set to your own personal taste.

Volume - 4

Treble - 3 1/2

Middle - 5

Bass - 6

Level - 4

Ratio - 5

Master - 3 1/2 (adjust for desired loudness)

Presence - 3

4.1 Specifications

Input Line Voltage – 120VAC, 60Hz

Power Consumption – 150W

Line Fuse Rating – 2A, Time Lag

B+ Fuse Rating – 1A, Time Lag

Output Power – 50W RMS

Output Impedance – 4, 8, 16 Ohms

Tube Types: V1- V5 – 12AX7 (ECC83)

V6, V7 – Custom 50A (6L6GC)

V6, V7 – Custom 50B (EL34)

Dimensions: Amp Head – 20”W x 8.25”H x 8.25”D

Weight: Amp Head – 29lbs

4.2 Vacuum Tube Replacement

Generally speaking, tubes last a very long time. Output tubes should last for approximately 2000 hours or one year of daily use. Preamp tubes can last upwards of 15-30 years and do not need to be replaced unless they become noisy with popping or microphonic squeals through your speakers. Your amp comes stock with JJ - 12AX7 preamp tubes and a matched pair of JJ - 6L6GC or Mullard - EL34 output tubes. The phase inverter tube (V3) is a JJ - 12AX7. We do not recommend any substitutes. The Effects Loop and Reverb buffer tubes (V4&V5) are also JJ-12AX7's. **ALWAYS** disconnect the power to the unit and let the tubes cool before replacement.

4.3 Tube Location Diagram

