Congratulations on your purchase of the V3M all tube guitar amp. Carvin has been building tube guitar amplifiers since 1949. They have been used by top professionals like Frank Zappa, Steve Vai, Craig Chaquico, Allan Holdsworth, and other great musicians. You will discover that these amplifiers represent a significant sound improvement over conventional amplifiers. Spend time with your new V3M and get to know its many sounds.

TECHNICAL DESIGN OF THE V3M

The V3M design criteria was to build a high performance 3-channel tube guitar amplifier in a compact, yet powerful package. The V3M has the ability to produce ultra-high gain and bass heavy sounds with the flexibility to cover all playing styles. The V3M utilizes new ideas built upon proven tube amplifier technology with an extensive set of features.

FLEXIBLE GAIN STRUCTURES

Each channel of the V3M offers three different gain modes that change the way the amp reacts to your playing. Different preamp frequencies are enhanced, giving each setting a different character. Unlike other 3-channel amps, the V3M allows you to set up both overdrive channels alive, then change settings to achieve mild or drastic differences between the two channels.

TONE CONTROLS and EQX

The passive BASS, MID, TREBLE tone controls offer a wide range of tone settings. The gain range of these controls comes from the use of high impedance 1% resistors. The EQX switch on each channel takes it one step further, offering a second range of tones to control by shifting the frequencies affected by the tone controls. The PRESENCE control is designed to control the "edge" on your sound. It's range allows for super-smooth warm sounds at lower settings or turn it up to cut through.

BUILT IN REVERB

The V3M reverb is custom designed for a lush, natural sound. The "long tail" switching system turns off all the reverb to let the reverb diode to decay without being cut off.

GIVE YOURSELF A BOOST!

A built-in 6dB boost can also be activated by footswitch. Set the amount of boost with the BOOST LEVEL control. When turned on, it will boost your amp's output up to 6dB for solos or any time you need to stand out in the mix.

HIGH IMPEDANCE GUITAR INPUT

Carvin has long known about the effects of over-loading a guitar pickup, which can cause high frequency loss. The V3M guards against this loss with its ultra high input impedance. We also considered the capacitance of the average shielded guitar cable which can reduce the high frequency response of your guitar pickups. Unlike other amplifiers, we purposely avoided adding capacitance in the preamp to control the frequency oscillations. Instead, we controlled oscillations through careful component layout and lead placement allowing its shimmering highs to be reproduced.

RECEIVING INSPECTION—read before getting started

INSPECT YOUR AMP FOR DAMAGE which may have occurred during shipping. If damage is found, please notify the shipping company and CARVIN immediately.

SAY THE CARTON & ALL PACKING MATERIALS. In the event you have to re-ship your unit, always use the original carton and packaging material. This will provide the best possible protection during shipment. CARVIN and the shipping company are not liable for any damage caused by improper packing.

SAVE YOUR INVOICE. It will be required for warranty service if needed in the future.

RECORD THE SERIAL NUMBER on the enclosed warranty card or below on this manual for your records. Keep your portion of the card and return the portion with your name and comments to us.

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GETTING STARTED QUICKLY FIRST, turn the DC-150/400V AC switch for the AC voltage in your area. If you are like most players, you proba- bly want to play your amp up and get started. You can read the rest of the manual later, but the first four points of your operating your amp. In order to get started, you will need your V3M, a 120v or 240v AC grounded power outlet, your instrument, a stand- ard guitar cable, a speaker cable and speaker cabinet.

Set the 120/240VAC switch for the AC voltage in your area. Plug in your speaker and set the "SPEAKER OHMS" switch to match. If you have the FS44 or FS44 footswitch, plug it into the rear 5-pin "FS44-L" footswitch jack. Or, if you only have the FZ2 footswitch plug it into the rear 3-pin "FZ2" footswitch jack. Turn all volume controls to "O." With the amp turned off, you may now plug in just the guitar AC plug into the rear panel of your amp. Plug in your guitar for a full 30 seconds. With the FS44 switch ON, wait 30 seconds for the tubes to warm up, then set the STANDBY switch to RUN. Your amp will be ready to play. Gradually raise the channel volume and master volume control and adjust the tone controls to your liking.

FRONT PANEL

The POWER switch is to be used as the master DC30 switch. As the amp is turned off, the 120/240VAC switch will illuminate as your DC30 switch. The LED for the V3M internal DC30 LEDs may also light. After turning the POWER switch ON, wall 60 seconds for the tubes to warm up - then set the STANDBY switch to RUN. After turning the amp OFF, set the switch to STANDBY, first, then set the POWER switch to the "OFF" position. After turning the amp OFF, set the FS44L virtual bypass is OFF, then take a 30 seconds. This turns the high voltage off, increasing the life of your power tubes while keeping the power and preamp tube filaments on immediate use.

MASTER VOLUME

The MASTER controls the output of all 3 channels and effects. Once your individual channel volume is set and balanced, use the MASTER to adjust your overall volume.

BOOST LED

The GREEN LED will light when the BOOST function is ON. Without the V3M preamp tubes this function is ON, acting as an effect return return level. This function can only be turned on/off through the FSA44L-V3M footswitch. When the function is ON, the rear panel BOOST LED will be lit in ON and OFF volume status.

The V3M CONTROL affects the amount of reverberation for all channels. The V3M CONTROL should not be set too low, as this will affect the reverb effect.

The LEDs next to each channel's drive control indicate which channel is active and the level of your signal. Each channel's drive control has the LEDs indicate the level of your signal. Each channel's drive control has the LEDs illuminate to indicate the level of your signal.

VOLUME

Set to Volume Channel 3 for "Ideal" playing. Adjust the DRIVE and VOLUME controls together to set the level for this channel.

The DRIVE MODE 3-POSITION SWITCH (CH3)

The DRIVE MODE 3-POSITION SWITCH (CH3) is a 3-position switch that changes the gain structure of the channel. There are three choices of drive style:

- "BRIGHT" - adds a high end snap to the preamp, this is ideal for lead, 2nd/3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th strings.
- "CLASSIC" - control A clean, open sound with lots of headroom. Turning up the DRIVE adds a柔和 to the midrange and compression. "GUITAR's" have a small equalization element in the bass.
- "THICK" - designed with a midrange, well-balanced sound and high frequencies.

The DRIVE CONTROL

For the cleanest sounds with the most headroom, set the DRIVE control below "O." The DRIVE is turned up, tube dynamics and sound are introduced to your sound. Different sound changes can be achieved by setting the DRIVE MODE switch.

The LED CHROMOMATIC indicator will light when channel 3 is selected.

The V3M on 12v+ cabinet (convertible for open/closed back)

The V3M on 12v+ cabinet (convertible for open/closed back)

28. FS44L-V3M FOOTSWITCH JAKC

To use this footswitch, set the front panel Channel Select switches to the UP position (see #6&7). The FS44L-V3M footswitch will control the CH3 and CH2 switches. Most foot pedals with 2 switches and a stereo plug play also.

29. FS22 FOOTSWITCH JACK

These switches control the LED accent lighting inside the V3M head. There will be 3dB and 6dB.

31. LED CAGE LIGHTING (V3M ONLY)

This is ideal for clean jazz, blues and general rhythm.

The DRIVE MODE 3-POSITION SWITCH (CH3)

Two 4TH SPEAKER JACKS are featured to allow use of large speaker systems. This function should not be turned ON, even with parallel wiring on the speakers as this causes feedback.

The SPEAKER IMPEDANCE SWITCH

The IMPEDANCE SWITCH offers the selection of 4 ohms or wired together for the speaker system. The correct impedance level is determined by the design of the speaker system. The IMPEDANCE should be set for the purpose of impedance and volume level.

The SPEAKER IMPEDANCE JACKS

Replace V4 if no output is heard when putting a signal through the effect return.

26. EFFECT LOOP

The LINE OUT 1/4" jack is for connecting to power amps or mixers. This output is "Gainless" to prevent excessive bass or treble going to your mixer. This greatly aids in sound quality because it does not have to make extreme adjustments to your mixer EQ. The output level is approx. -35dB less than the output speaker and designed to drive any professional mixer or power amp.

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Effect Loop's are a series of circuits. This means it sends all signals through feedback. To use the Effect Loop, plug the a line input into the SEND jack and the OUTPUT of your effects into the RETURN jack. Use shielded cables, not speaker cables. Make sure you adjust your levels so that it is not input being overloaded. Adjust the preamp or your mixer settings to your liking. The function can be changed by turning the BOOST function on/off.

36. BASS, MID, TREBLE

The BASS, MID, TREBLE controls can be used for equalizing the tone controls. However, these settings do not represent a disarmament (flat) sound. You need to use these when you sound is too low or too bright, you may want to reduce the PRESET control.

The TONE INDICATORS

These switches control the LED accent lighting inside the V3M head. The LEDs can be set red, RED, OR BLUE. This switch does not effect the V3M CABINET as there are no LEDs.

20. TREBLE, MIDS, BASS CONTROLS

To start off with, set the PRESET, MIDS, MIDS, BASS controls at their center (5) position. These controls are set to accent the type of sound you want. Try adjusting the PRESET control before adjusting the treble.

21. BOOST LED

The BOOST LED will show when the channel 1 is selected.

22. LED CHROMATIC INDICATOR

The LED CHROMATIC indicator will light when channel 3 is selected. The LED will illuminate when channel 1 is selected.