Aguilar Amplification's

AG 500

Owners Manual

Manual Version 1.7

The AG 500 continues Aguilar's legacy of great tone and superior craftsmanship, but breaks new ground by being our first dual channel, all solid-state head. Combining portability with versatility, this product was designed to answer the needs of bassists in every genre of music. Another important feature of the AG 500 is the inclusion of Aguilar's first saturation circuit. From vintage tube-like warmth to full on dirt, this flexible circuit will allow you to add rich harmonic overdrive to your sound while maintaining the full, round tone of your instrument. Combine these features with 500 loud and punchy watts of power and you have the hottest new amp on the market!

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I. Getting Started

A. Safety Instructions

Please follow these guidelines:

A) Vents are provided for heat dissipation at the rear of the amplifier. Maintain at least a 1" space around these vents to provide sufficient ventilation. If you decide to rack mount the amplifier make sure you do not block the vents.

B) Keep all sources of fire, such as lighted candles, away from the amplifier.

C) This product is approved for use in any climate.

D) Do not expose the product to dripping or splashing. Do not place objects filled with fluid on the amplifier.

E) Amplifier must be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection.

F) The appliance coupler (AC cord) is the disconnect device. The disconnect device shall remain readily operable at all times.

B. Manual Conventions

In this manual, words that appear in *italics* represent actual physical controls on the AG 500.

C. Basic Setup

Plug in your instrument, the footswitch, and your speaker cabinets. The amount of power this amplifier will produce varies with the impedance rating of your cabinets.

One 8 ohm cabinet – 250 watts
Two 8 ohm cabinets – 500 watts
One 4 ohm cabinet – 500 watts

With the *Master* volumes on both channels down, turn on your amplifier. Adjust each channel as follows:

Channel 1:
1. Turn the *Gain* on Channel 1 up while playing. Turn up until the *Clip* light flashes and then back off until the light stops flashing. You have now optimized your signal to noise ratio.

2. If you have a particularly high output instrument it may be necessary to push the *–10dB* button in to prevent clipping of the input buffer. This button is located next to the *Input* jack and when pushed in it lowers your input signal by 10dB.

3. Turn up Channel 1's *Master* control until you reach the volume you need.

Channel 2:
1. While playing turn up Channel 2's *Master* control until you reach your normal playing level. Because Channel 2 features Aguilar's saturation circuitry there is no gain control.

2. Adjust the *Saturation* control to the desired amount of overdrive. The minimum position provides a little tube-like breakup. In the maximum position…stand back! If your bass has low output or you don't have the instrument volume up all the way it may be necessary to turn the *Saturation* up further to hear the desired amount of overdrive.

D. Protection Modes

Overcurrent Mode:
In this mode the preamp remains active, but the power amp mutes. The *Status* light does not flash. Power cycle the amp to reset. This may happen if the load is too low, or if you plug and unplug cabinets while playing.

Thermal/DC Mode:
In this mode both the preamp and the power amp mute. The *Status* light flashes. Power cycle the amp to reset. This may happen if the AC line power is not correct, if the amp is overheating, or if there is risk of damage to the amp or speakers.

II. Features and Functions

A. Front Panel Features

Input Pad:
-10dB

Channel 1 Section
Bright: +5dB >4kHz shelving
Treble: +/- 13dB @ 4kHz shelving
High Mid: +/- 14dB @ 800Hz peaking
Low Mid: +/- 14dB @ 400Hz peaking
Bass: +/- 18dB @ 40Hz shelving
Deep: +6dB <100Hz shelving

Channel 2 Section
Contour: broad range mid scoop @ 1kHz
(ccw=max scoop (~20dB) cw=flat)
Treble: + 6dB/- 10dB @ 4kHz shelving
Mid: + 4dB/- 10dB @ 600Hz peaking
Bass: + 8dB/- 6dB @ 40Hz shelving
Deep: +6dB <100Hz shelving
Presence: + 6dB/-20dB >4kHz shelving

Effects Loop Section

***Send*:** Output level = -infinity to +22dBu
Adjust the level of the *Send* output to get the maximum performance from your effects unit.

***Return*:** Sensitivity **=** -20dBu to +infinity
(This range of signals can be adjusted to get the nominal output level at the speaker output.) Adjust this knob to optimize the signal level returning from the Effects Loop. If it is turned up too high, you can clip the return circuitry of the AG 500. If it is turned down too low you might not be able to get loud enough.

***Pull –20dB*:** Boosts the level of the *Return* signal by 8dB.
This allows you to use a studio effects unit (line level) or a stomp box (instrument level) in the Effects Loop. If the signal returning from the Effects Loop is too quiet, pull this knob to boost the Return signal.

***Pull Series*:** Removes any "dry" (un-effected) signal from the signal path.
When this knob is pushed in the Effects Loop is configured in "parallel" and you can mix your "dry" signal with the signal from the Effects Loop. When this knob is pulled out the Effects Loop is configured in "series" and all of your signal will pass through the Effects Loop. If you do not have anything plugged into the Effects Loop pulling this knob will cut off your signal completely.

D.I. Section

D.I. Nominal Output Level: -20dBu

D.I. *Pre/Post* Button:

Pre - Your signal goes to the D.I. XLR output jack before your *Gain*, *Saturation* and EQ settings, but after the *–10dB* input pad.

Post - *Gain*, *Saturation*, EQ, *Master* settings and effects will be sent to the D.I. XLR output jack. * Please note that when *Post* is selected each *Master* control must be adjusted independently to balance channel levels. If one level is set during sound check and the other is not you may not have equal volumes when channel switching.

***Lift/Ground*:** If there is a hum when using the D.I. there may be a ground loop. In many cases pushing in the *Lift/Ground* button can fix this problem.

*** Note**: The AG 500 will not be harmed by phantom power through the D.I. Phantom power is a power supply that can be switched on at the channel input of some mixing consoles. It is used to power some types of microphones. Use of phantom power (usually labeled as 48V) will have no effect on the D.I. or the amplifier in general.

B. Rear Panel Features

Speaker Outputs: Two Speakon outputs and two ¼" outputs are provided. Any combination may be used as long as the load does not exceed 4 ohms.

Tuner Output: One ¼" Tuner output is provided. When the amplifier is muted your signal will still reach the tuner.

C. Footswitch Features

Channel 2: This switch allows you to quickly select your channel. When the LED is lit you are in Channel 2.

Operate: This switch allows you to mute the amplifier. When the LED is lit you are in Operate mode, when the LED is unlit the amp is muted.

III. Warranty Information

Please register for your warranty at www.aguilaramp.com upon receipt of your amplifier. The AG 500 has a 3 year limited warranty against manufacturing defects. If you experience a problem with your amplifier, please contact techsupport@aguilaramp.com to receive a Return Authorization number or for information on the nearest authorized repair center. A copy of your original receipt must be included with all warranty repairs.