

SOUND CITY



OWNERS MANUAL
Master Lead 50™

www.soundcityamp.com

Welcome to Sound City®!

Congratulations and thank you for choosing Sound City® Amplification.

The Sound City® Master Series amplifiers are pure old-school WMDs, built on the foundation of the original David Reeves designed ONE HUNDRED model, first produced by Reeves for Ivor Arbiter's Sound City company in 1966. Used in their formative and intensely creative years by such legendary artists as Jimi Hendrix, Jimmy Page, Pete Townsend, Marc Bolan, and John Entwistle, the Sound City Master Series captures a sonic recipe all but lost to history until recently brought back to stand head and shoulders with their historic contemporaries.

These amplifiers deliver a broad dynamic range and striking power amp saturation that will breathe new life into your playing style. From the first note, the inspiring tone will bring you back to the nuanced and muscular vintage sounds of classic recordings, without the need to run the amp at insanely high volume levels.

As a pedal platform, you will find the meticulously built Master Series amps to be unrivaled in response, detail and nuance. In addition, the very low noise preamp and power amp stages will provide a dramatically deeper, wider soundstage for your favorite vintage and modern stomps.

The Master Series preamp section has a broad dynamic range, which accounts for its extra touch-sensitivity and excellent guitar volume response. In addition, clean and overdriven voicings can easily be dialed up using the unique gain structure, tone controls, presence and master volume. From there, just a little tweaking on your guitar volume and tone controls will yield a surprising amount of sonic range.

The Master Series power amp section is designed for big round tone and dynamic response at low to medium guitar volumes and a rapid but smooth transition into saturation, turning rich and thick at full guitar volume. This combination of preamp voicing and power amp response enhances the unique character of any guitar and pick-up type and truly harkens back to the glory days of unrestrained guitar fury.

Specially designed, American made precision wound power transformers and top-quality paper wound output transformers produce optimum performance, reliability and stability, delivering excellent power tube response and just the right amount of natural output transformer saturation and compression.

Getting familiar with the Sound City Master Series amps is easy, so don't be terribly surprised when you find yourself up and running in no time. First hand experience and real world application will yield the ultimate satisfaction of finding your own path of comprehension and self-expression.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



This symbol warns the user of dangerous voltage levels localized within the enclosure.

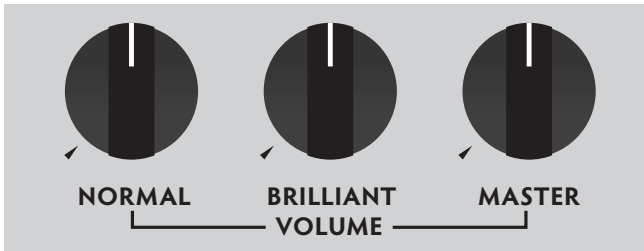


This symbol advises the user to read all accompanying literature for safe operation of the unit.

- ▶ Read, retain, and follow all instructions. Heed all warnings.
- ▶ Only connect the power supply cord to an earth grounded AC receptacle in accordance with the voltage and frequency ratings listed under the AC input on the rear panel of this product.
- ▶ **WARNING:** To prevent damage, fire or shock hazard, do not expose this unit to rain or moisture.
- ▶ Unplug the power supply cord before cleaning the unit exterior (use a damp cloth only). Wait until the unit is completely dry before reconnecting it to power.
- ▶ Maintain at least 6 inches (15.25 cm) of unobstructed air space behind the unit to allow for proper ventilation and cooling of the unit.
- ▶ This product should be located away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, or other products that produce heat.
- ▶ This product may be equipped with a polarized plug (one blade wider than the other). This is a safety feature. If you are unable to insert the plug into the outlet, contact an electrician to replace your obsolete outlet. Do not defeat the safety purpose of this plug.
- ▶ Protect the power supply cord from being pinched or abraded.
- ▶ The power supply cord of this product should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time, or during electrical storms.
- ▶ This product should be serviced by qualified service personnel when: the power supply cord or the plug has been damaged; or objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled onto the product; or the product has been exposed to rain; or the product does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance; or the product has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.
- ▶ Do not drip nor splash liquids, nor place liquid filled containers on the unit.
- ▶ **CAUTION:** No user serviceable parts inside, refer servicing to qualified personnel only.
- ▶ SOUND CITY® amplifiers and loudspeaker systems are capable of producing very high sound pressure levels which may cause temporary or permanent hearing damage. Use care when setting and adjusting volume levels during use.
- ▶ Hazardous voltages may be present within the chassis even with the power switch off and power cord connected. Therefore, disconnect the power cord from the rear panel power inlet before servicing. The power inlet must remain readily operable.

IT ALL STARTS HERE

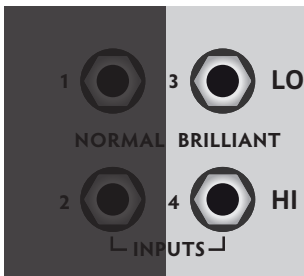
The Input Sensitivity of an amplifier, commonly referred to as gain, determines how much overdrive and sustain your guitar will produce. Tonal balance determines how the amp will respond to your playing style and sound with a particular guitar. Like all amplifiers, the Master Series amps have tone and volume controls. Understanding the unique interactive nature of these features will give you total control over tonal balance, gain and power amplifier distortion. The NORMAL/BRILLIANT/MASTER VOLUME configuration is the key to dialing in the Master Series sound and volume to your specific requirements.



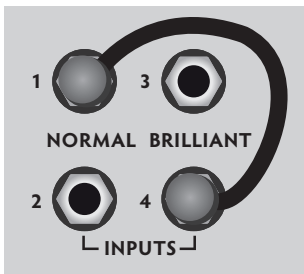
The NORMAL and BRILLIANT volume controls set the input stage gain amount as you rotate the knob clockwise. Each stage features dual input jack pairs. In each pair, the bottom jack is 3dB hotter than the top jack.



The NORMAL volume feeds a full range gain stage that delivers deep low end and a subtle top end sparkle. As you increase the volume, the tonal balance develops a fatter smoother character. This stage is ideal for dialing in a big dynamic punch that cleans up nicely when backing off on the guitar volume.



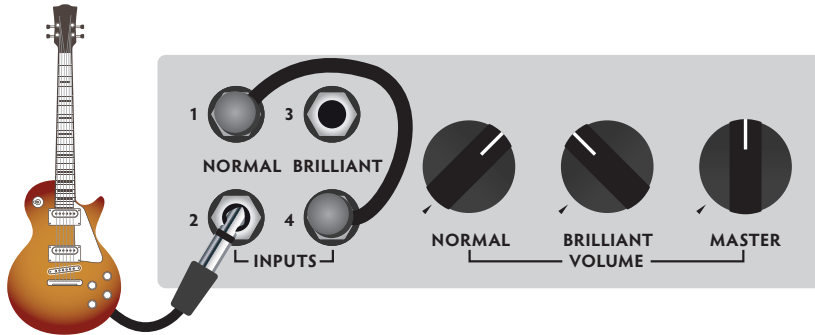
The BRILLIANT volume feeds a somewhat hotter gain stage with a rolled off low end and a pronounced midrange emphasis. As the gain is increased, the tonal balance shifts from upper mid emphasis to a lower mid emphasis with a noticeable onset of preamp distortion. This will produce a thick meaty tone. The forward top end voicing of this stage allows you to turn down the tone control on your guitar for a sweet sustaining "Woman Tone" vibe.



Jumping the inputs allows you to blend the NORMAL and BRILLIANT voicings. When jumping the inputs, use the short, shielded cable provided from the bottom NORMAL jack to the top BRILLIANT jack or vice versa. In either case plug your guitar into the remaining bottom jack (Input 2 or 4) for best tone and sustain.

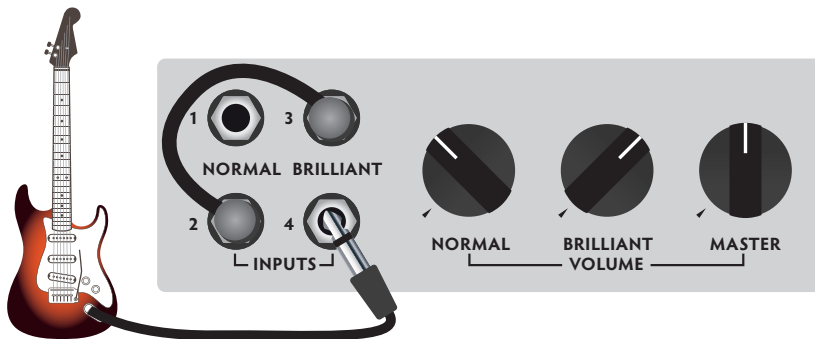
Different combinations of NORMAL and BRILLIANT volume control settings will have a dramatic effect on the response of the amplifier and the personality of your instrument. Once you get familiar with the action of these controls and you'll be amazed at how easy it is to make any guitar sound mellow, fat, soulful or aggressive.

TRY THESE BASIC SETTINGS SUGGESTIONS AS A STARTING POINT



Input for guitars with humbuckers

When using humbucking pickups with enhanced midrange output, plug into Input 2, and jump Inputs 1 and 4. Push the normal volume more than the brilliant volume.



Input for guitars with single coils

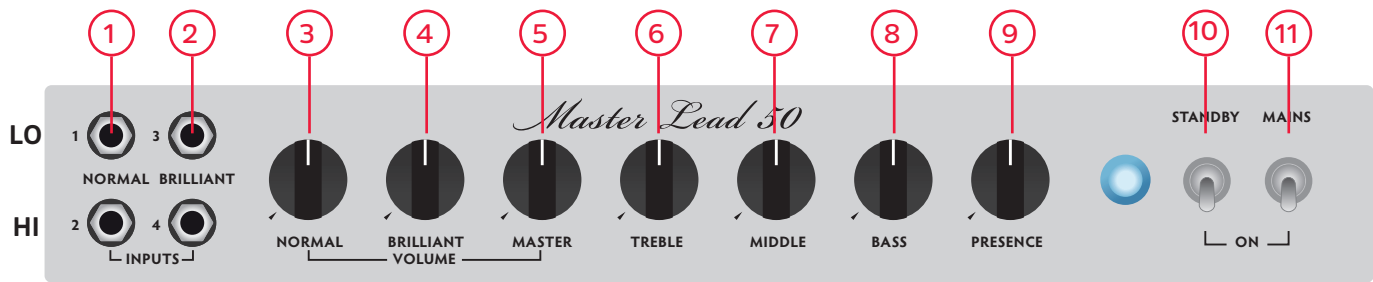
When using single coil pickups, plug into Input 4, and jump Inputs 2 and 3. Push the brilliant volume more than the normal volume.

The Sound City MASTER VOLUME is noticeably different than the typical master volume you're probably used to, and this is important in understanding how to unlock the beast within. A typical master volume is usually set low to limit and manage the volume of a very high gain cascaded preamp stage. On the Master Series amps, it is best to think of the master volume as a volume that controls the other volumes, similar to a PA mixer, for example.

Assuming you will jump the channels, you will set the input volumes for your desired tonal balance and then set the master volume for the desired output level. The lower the master, the cleaner the amp will sound, the higher the master, the louder and more overdriven the amp will become as you begin to push the output stage into saturation.

As you will see, by experimenting with combinations of settings you can cover an awful lot of tonal territory before you even begin to start thinking about tone control settings. See page 9 for sample settings.

SOUND CITY® MASTER LEAD 50 FUNCTIONS



FRONT PANEL, LEFT TO RIGHT

1. NORMAL INPUT – The bottom jack is the high sensitivity input. The top jack is the low input.
2. BRILLIANT INPUT – The bottom jack is the high sensitivity input. The top jack is the low input.

PREAMP GAIN / VOLUME SECTION

3. NORMAL VOLUME – Sets the volume of the normal gain stage. This first gain control also serves as a tone shaping control, counter-clockwise for crisp and articulate, clockwise for thick and saturated.
4. BRILLIANT VOLUME – Sets the volume of the brilliant gain stage. This first gain control also serves as a tone shaping control, counter-clockwise for clean and bright, clockwise for snappy and mid focused.
5. MASTER VOLUME – Power amp volume – loudness/saturation – control.

EQUALIZATION SECTION – Passive / Interactive tone controls.

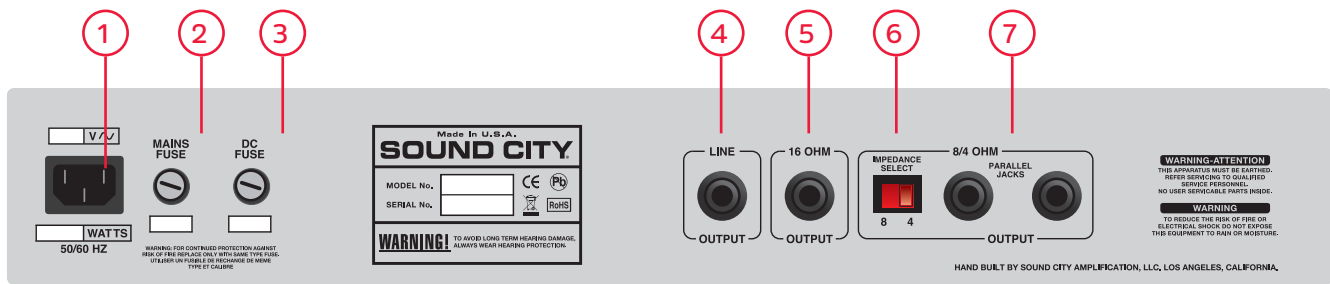
6. TREBLE – Passive High frequency equalization.
7. MIDDLE – Passive Mid frequency equalization.
8. BASS – Passive low frequency equalization.

POWER AMP RESPONSE SECTION

9. PRESENCE – High frequency variable feedback in the power amp.

AC POWER / STANDBY

10. STANDBY – Turns on high voltage to output section (down is “on”).
11. MAINS – Switches main AC power on or off (down is “on”).



REAR PANEL, LEFT TO RIGHT

1. AC MAINS INPUT – Connect to a grounded outlet in accordance with the voltage and frequency specified on the rear panel of your amplifier.

⚠ Use only the factory supplied cord set or a UL approved equivalent type.

2. MAINS FUSE – Protects the amplifier from electrical faults. Replace only with type and rating specified on the rear panel of your amplifier.
3. DC FUSE – Protects the power supply and output transformer from electrical faults. Replace only with type and rating specified on the rear panel of your amplifier.

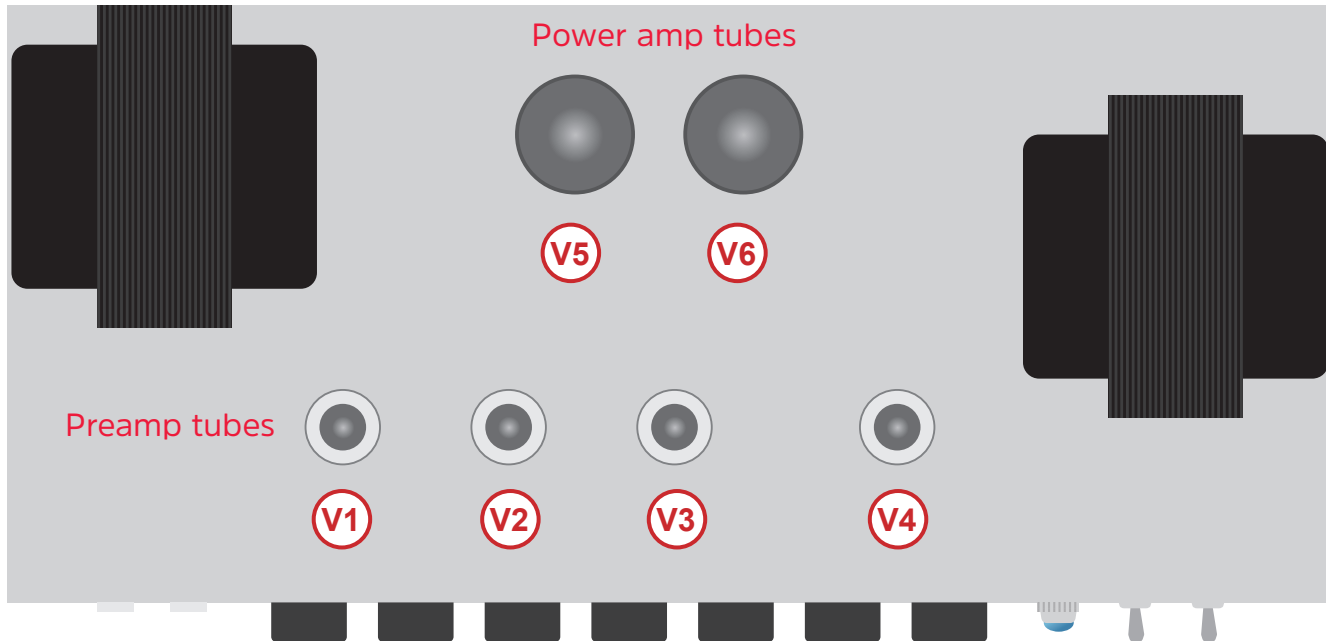
⚠ Warning! Replace only with same fuse type and rating.

4. LINE OUTPUT - This is a padded down speaker output signal for use with slaving or direct recording.

⚠ WARNING: To prevent damage to your amplifier, a speaker, reactive load or resistive load must be connected to a speaker output when using the LINE OUTPUT.

5. OUTPUT 16 OHMS – This is a dedicated 16 Ohm output for use with a typical 16 Ohm 412 cab. Any 16 Ohm load can be connected here. It is unaffected by the IMPEDANCE SELECT switch setting.
6. IMPEDANCE SELECT 8/4 - Impedance switch setting should equal total of cabinet impedances plugged into both jacks. One 8 Ohm cab = 8 Ohms, two 16 Ohm cabs = 8 Ohms, two 8 Ohm cabs = 4 Ohms.
7. SPEAKER OUTPUT 8/4 OHM – Parallel wired jacks.

TUBE FUNCTION AND LOCATION CHART



Tube locations are from right to left looking at the back of the amp. Tube types are factory selected for superior performance, consistent tone quality and reliability. While substituting other brands may not cause damage to the amplifier this may affect amplifier performance in unpredictable ways. For best performance, replace only with factory recommended tubes. Warning! Substituting other tube types is not recommended.

Factory recommended tubes are listed under each location. Numbering sequence is right to left looking at back of amp starting with the row closest to front panel of amp.

Tube No.	Factory Fitted Tubes	Function / Comments
V1 (shielded tube)	12AX7A Tung-Sol	Gain Stage 1: Normal and Brilliant Input
	12AX7WB Sovtek	Use in place of Tung-Sol for smoother top end and less upper mids
	12AX7 China Selected	Use in place of WB if more gain is required
V2 (shielded tube)	12AX7A/7025 China	Gain Stage 2: Tone Control Driver
V3 (shielded tube)	12AX7A/7025 China	Gain Stage 3: Phase Inverter Buffer
V4 (shielded tube)	12AT7A/China	Phase Inverter
V5 - V6	EL34 Mullard	Power Tubes (USE ONLY EL34, 6CA7 or KT77)

Clean Brit Strat



Clean American Strat



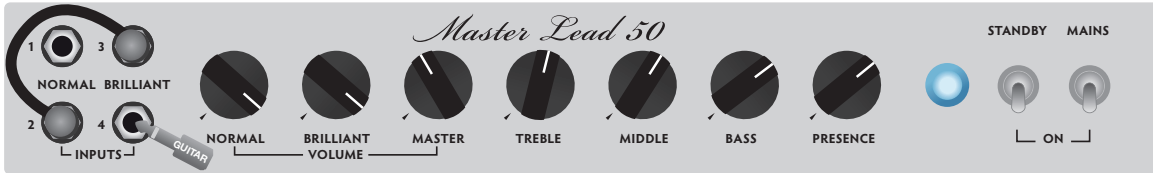
Mid-Gain Strat



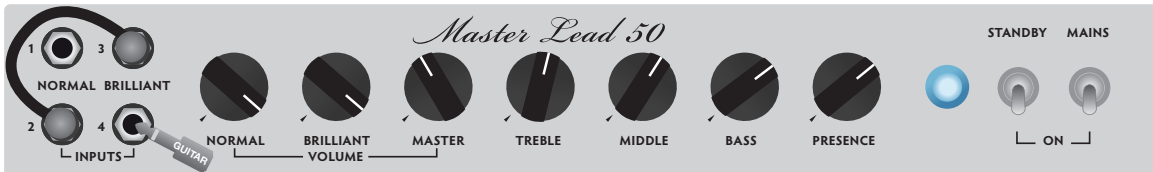
Fat Flutey Gain Strat



Fat Woody Strat



Paul Kossof Strat



Crossroads Solo Humbucker



Windmill Power Chords Humbucker



WON'T TURN ON

1. Make sure AC cord is securely connected at both ends.
2. Verify the power source with something you know works.
3. Check the mains fuse, and replace if necessary. If it blows again, refer to qualified service personnel.

NO SOUND

1. Check input cable.
2. Check volume controls.
3. Make sure the selected channel volume and/or gain controls are turned up.
4. Check to see if the effects loop is engaged and the level turned down.
5. Check speaker cable to see if it is disconnected or shorted.
6. Make sure that the impedance selector is fully engaged in its detent.
7. Check the standby switch.
8. Check for a blown speaker.
9. Look at the preamp tubes to see if they are lighting up.

RUNNING HOT

1. Make sure that the unit has adequate ventilation.
2. Make sure that the impedance selector is set to the proper impedance.
3. Power tubes may be drawing excessive current (refer to qualified service personnel).

NOTE:

Always set the amplifier to standby when taking breaks and turn the amplifier off when not in use. This will extend tube life and improve long term reliability.

DISTORTION

1. Check the impedance setting.
2. Check the speaker cable for shorts.
3. Check the speaker.
4. Check the signal level at other devices in the signal path or in the loop.
5. Power tubes may be weak (refer to qualified service personnel).

BLOWING MAINS FUSE

1. Bad power tube or other internal power supply component (refer to qualified service personnel).

BLOWING DC FUSE

1. Replace power tubes.
2. Possible internal power supply component (refer to qualified service personnel).

SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL: MASTER LEAD 50
 MODEL NUMBER: ML50H.
 POWER REQUIREMENT: 200W
 POWER AMP OUTPUT:
 High Power: 100W RMS @ 5% THD, 1kHz sine into 8Ω
 INPUT IMPEDANCE: 470KΩ
 OUTPUT IMPEDANCE: 4Ω / 8Ω (selectable), 16Ω (fixed)

FUSE: **100V UNITS: MAINS** T3.5A, 250V.
120V UNITS: T3A, 250V.
220V-240V UNITS: T1.6A, 250V.
 FUSE DC: F500mA
 DIMENSIONS:
HEIGHT: 11.50 in (29 cm)
WIDTH: 25.750 in (65 cm)
DEPTH: 10.250 in (26 cm)
WEIGHT: 41 lb (18.6 kg)



Product specifications are subject to change without notice.



Certificate of Compliance
Restriction of the use of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)

We certify that all of our products (exceptions see listed below) are compliant with the European Union Directive 2002/95/EC for the Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS).

No Lead (Pb), Cadmium (Cd), Mercury (Hg), Hexavalent Chromium (Cr+6), PBB or PBDE is intentionally added to these devices. Any trace impurities of these substances contained in the parts are below the RoHS specified threshold levels.

All information provided in this Certificate of Compliance is accurate to the best of our knowledge as of the date this Certification was issued.

Certificate of Compliance
Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction
of chemicals (REACH)

We declare that all of our products are compliant with European Union Directive EC1907/2006 for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of chemicals (REACH), and contain none or less than 0.1% of the chemicals listed as hazardous chemicals in the REACH regulation. All information provided in this Certificate of Compliance is accurate to the best of our knowledge as of the date this Certification was issued.

Declaration of Conformity
EMC and Low Voltage Directive (CE)

Product Name: Master One Hundred/Master Lead 50
Model Number: M100/ML50

This is to certify that the product listed above complies with the following European Union Council Directives and Standards relating to electromagnetic compatibility (EMC Directive 89/336/EEC) and the low voltage Directive (73/23/EEC).

This declaration of conformity of the European Communities is the result of an examination carried out by Electromagnetic Engineering Services, Inc. in accordance with European Standards EN 50081-1, EN 50082-1 and EN 60065 for low voltage, as laid down in Article 10 of the EMC Directive.

Group Eleven, LLC.
6850 Vineland Ave. Unit P
North Hollywood, CA 91605 USA



Subject to the obligations and exclusions found below, this product is warranted by Sound City Amplification, LLC., (herein SCA) against manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship for the period of Five (5) Years from the date of purchase, with the exception of the tubes, fuses and speakers where applicable, which carry a 90 day warranty.

The warranty period commences on the date of purchase by the original user. Performance under this warranty must be obtained at one of the following: an SCA Authorized Service Station, by returning the unit to the SCA factory with prior written authorization, or (in countries outside of the United States) by a representative SCA distributor.

Obligations

1. This warranty will be honored only on the presentation of the original proof of purchase.
2. Transportation of the product to and from an authorized SCA service outlet is the responsibility of the user. Units sent directly to the SCA factory for warranty repairs must be authorized by SCA and shipped prepaid.

Exclusions

1. This warranty shall not cover adjustment of consumer-operated controls as explained in the appropriate instruction manual, or products that have been altered or have missing, or defaced serial numbers.
2. This warranty shall not apply to the appearance of accessory items including but not limited to, cabinets, cabinet parts, or knobs.
3. This warranty does not apply to uncrating, setup, installation, or the removal and reinstallation of products for repair.
4. This warranty shall not apply to repair or replacements necessitated by any cause beyond the control of SCA including, but not limited to, any malfunction, defects, or failure caused by or resulting from unauthorized service or parts, damaged or broken tubes, incorrect line voltage, improper maintenance, modification or repair by the user, abuse misuse, neglect, accident, fire, flood, or other Acts of God.
5. Responsibility for the repair of any SCA product sold outside of U.S. boundaries is borne by the SCA representative in that particular country or territory. Also, the warranty term and conditions may be different from those stated above. Please contact the SCA distributor or dealer in your country for more information.

The foregoing is in lieu of all other expressed warranties, and SCA does not authorize any party to assume for it any other obligation or liability. In no event shall SCA be liable for special or consequential damages arising from the use of this product, or for any delay in the performance of this warranty due to causes beyond our control. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of consequential damages, so the above limitations on implied warranty and consequential damages may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have other rights that vary from state to state.

WARRANTY REGISTRATION

U.S. and Canadian residents may register their Sound City product(s) online at www.soundcityamp.com by selecting and completing the Warranty Registration form. All other international residents please contact the authorized distributor your Fryette product was purchased from. For a list of international distributors please visit www.soundcityamp.com

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