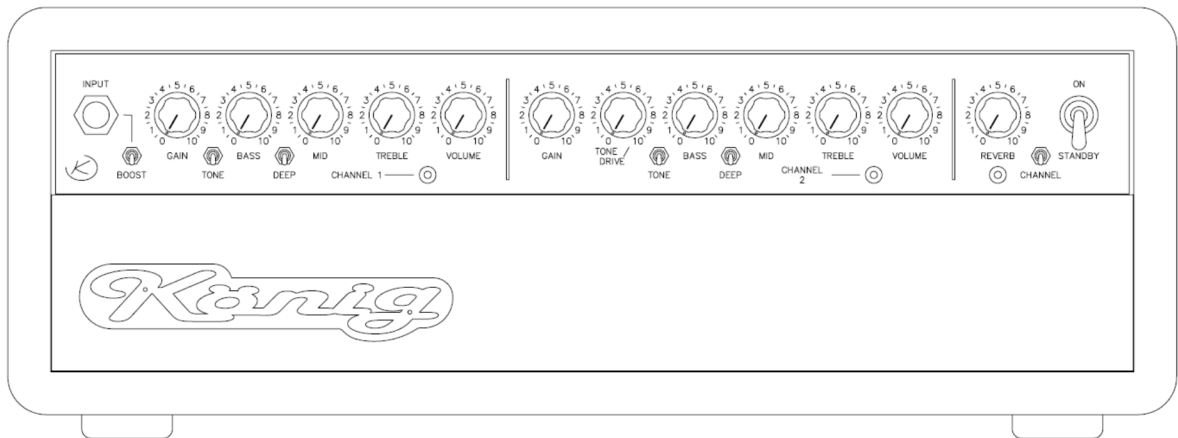




tube amp  
manufactur

*„blue note“*



Complete tube Guitar Amplifier

(TOP + COMBO)

- Operating manual -

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## Safety information

For the power supply of the unit, only a correct Schuko connection according to the valid IEC (ANSI) specifications may be used. Under no circumstances may the earthing contact cable be interrupted. The pre-set operating voltage must correspond to the local mains voltage. Make sure that the mains cable is not damaged. It must be replaced if damage is visible. You can do this yourself, as it is a commercially available Euro mains cable which is connected to the unit via a plug connection.

If the mains fuse on the unit has to be changed, it must first be disconnected from the mains (pull out the mains plug). The type and current of the fuse must correspond to the specifications on the unit.

This amplifier may only be operated in dry rooms. Make sure that no moisture can penetrate into the unit.

During operation the amplifier must be well ventilated so that the generated waste heat can escape. It should therefore be free-standing and under no circumstances be covered (fabric, blanket tarpaulin, foil, etc.).

The device may only be opened for any adjustments, repairs, etc, by authorised specialist personnel.

The amplifier is able to generate high volumes. High volume levels can cause permanent hearing damage. Avoid therefore the direct proximity of loudspeakers, which are operated with high volume levels. Use hearing protection under continuous exposure to high volume levels.

The manufacturer assumes no liability for damage to the device and / or to persons and other creatures (such as pets) caused by improper operation or failure to observe one or more safety instructions in this manual.

## Connecting

If you have purchased a top, connect the corresponding speaker or a 50 W / 8 Ohm box to the "SPEAKER" loudspeaker output (rear of the amplifier).

Note:

Tube amplifiers are not "idling proof". If the speakers are not connected and the amplifier is switched on, costly damage may occur in the unit.

If you want to use a footswitch for channel switching and reverb off, connect it to the "FOOTSWITCH" (rear panel) jack.

Now connect the mains cable to a Schuko socket (observe safety instructions). The power supply cable is located at the back of the wooden housing.

Connect the guitar to the input "INPUT" of the amplifier (front left).

## Initial operation

Turn the amplifier on by turning the power switch to "ON". The "POWER" switch is located on the left rear of the unit.

To avoid excessive volume levels immediately after switching on, please set the "VOLUME" - and "GAIN" - controllers to "2" on the scale for the time being.

After a warm-up time of approx. 1.5 minutes, the amplifier can be put into operation. To do this, the "STANDBY" switch on the right-hand side of the front panel is switched upwards.

Note:

For shorter breaks, it is recommended to use the "STANDBY" switch. To switch off the device completely, first push the "STANDBY" switch downwards and switch off the unit after approx. 30 sec using the mains switch. This avoids cracking noises when switching off.

## Front Panel Operation

### "BOOST" switch

A "BOOST" switch is located directly at the inputs. This is used to adjust the level of the guitar pickups to the amplifier. When connecting a guitar with very strong (loud) pickups, this switch should be set to "off" for cleaner sounds (lever down). This is useful so that the first amplifier stage is not overdriven when the guitar is fully turned up. Only if the sustain is not sufficient for lead sounds, should it be set to "ON" (lever upwards).

Note:

The position of the "BOOST" switch affects the entire amplifier, ie both channels.

## The channels

The amplifier has 2 separate channels, each with its own "GAIN" and "VOLUME" controls. Furthermore, each channel has its own tone control and additional settings for the sound.

The channels can either be switched on the unit using the "CHANNEL" switch or with a footswitch ("FOOTSWITCH" socket on the back).

Note:

The channels are switched via high-quality relays. A sophisticated, digitally controlled muting circuit with field effect transistors prevents cracking when switching. The field effect transistors used here are used for only a fraction of a second of the torque and have absolutely no influence on the signal processing and thus on the sound of the amplifier.

### **"GAIN" + "VOLUME" channel controls 1**

Channel 1 has its own "GAIN" control and is thus able to produce clean and crunchy to relatively strongly distorted sounds. For a clean sound, the "VOLUME" control should be set between "5-6" and the "GAIN" control should be used as volume control. With this channel, sounds with crystal clear trebles can be produced. The further the GAIN control is turned down and the VOLUME control up, the cleaner the sound.

For distorted to heavily distorted sounds, the GAIN control is used for the distortion level and the VOLUME control for the volume.

Note for the "blue note" with built-in tweeter:

For channel 1, the tweeter (using the "TWEETER" switch on the rear of the amplifier) can be switched on or off. When operating channel 2, the tweeter is automatically switched off. By removing a solder bridge on the main board (only to be carried out by qualified personnel), the tweeter also remains on in channel 2 and can then be switched on or off in both channels via the rear switch.

### **"GAIN", "TONE/DRIVE" + "VOLUME" channel 2**

Channel 2 is intended for slightly distorted, crunchy to heavily distorted and sustain-rich sounds. It has a "TONE / DRIVE" control, with which it is possible to massively influence the type of distortion. The more it is turned up, the softer and warmer the distortion. At the same time the gain increases and thus the sustain. Thus it is possible to produce sustain-rich, fat lead sounds with the "TONE / DRIVE" control turned up. With a correspondingly low GAIN control, however, slightly distorted, bluesy sounds can also be achieved. The reverse setting ("TONE/DRIVE") in the "0" direction produces crunchy to hard but still harmonic distortions.

Both "GAIN" + "TONE/DRIVE" controls control the amount and sustain of the distortion, with "TONE/DRIVE" affecting the sound character.

The "VOLUME" control adjusts the volume for this channel.

Note:

When the controls are turned up very high ("GAIN", "TONE/DRIVE", "BASS", "MID", "TREBLE" + "VOLUME"), it can cause strong noise.

However, these settings do not correspond to a sensible operating state and do not indicate a defect. Please note: In the development of this amplifier, great importance was attached to versatility in addition to good sound. Among other things, this includes the fact that the power amp can be overdriven with undistorted, or slightly distorted preamp ("GAIN" control low, "VOLUME" control high), or a very high-grade clean sound ("TONE" -switch up, "DEEP" switch up "TREBLE" control up, "GAIN" control low, "VOLUME" control up).

With such practical settings, the noise described above will not occur.

### **“TONE” + “DEEP” switches**

The "TONE" + "DEEP" switches work very similarly in both channels:

"TONE" determines the proportion of heights:

upper position = much treble

middle position = normal

lower position = less treble

"DEEP" raises the low mid-range (about 300 Hz) to achieve a fat tone:

upper position = raising the lower middles + presence raising

middle position = function off (no sound influence) lower position = only raising the lower middles

Note:

The frequency response of the "DEEP" switch is designed so that it does not raise the low bass range at the same time. This avoids a queasy sound and you don't get into the frequency range that should be reserved for your colleague with the mostly 4-string (slightly larger) guitar.

### **“BASS”, “MID”+ “TREBLE” controls**

The tone controls of both channels ("BASS", "MID" and "TREBLE") are based on tried and tested circuit technology. However, with 2 essential special features:

1. Adjusting the controls has a greater influence on the sound than many older amplifier models.
2. The "MID" controller performs 2 tasks. On the one hand it raises the middles broadband and strongly, on the other hand it lets (when opened enough ) more and more the pure, natural guitar sound through.

Note:

By turning up the "MID" control, the "BASS" and "TREBLE" controls lose their effect. This is normal and intended to reproduce the original/natural sound of the guitar.

### **“Reverb” control**

For the reverb, a DSP module from "ACCUTRONICS" works in the "blue note", which fits very harmoniously into the overall concept of the amplifier. It can be adjusted with the help of the "REVERB" control. With the "REVERB"-knob fully turned up, a spacy, almost chorus-like effect can be achieved. The reverb can be switched off by means of a foot switch (socket "FOOTSWITCH" on the rear panel).

Note:

The reverb is the only digital signal processing circuit in this amplifier. This is mixed in parallel to the original signal via the "REVERB" potentiometer. Thus, the guitar signal is free of any digital influence when the reverb is switched on or off.

## Rear panel operation

### **“EXT SP 8/16 OHM” connection**

An additional or second loudspeaker box can be connected to the "EXT SP" socket. The impedance of this box can be between 8 - 16 ohms, but should not be less than 8 ohms.

### **“SPEAKER” connection**

The internal loudspeaker of the COMBO is connected to this socket and the first loudspeaker box is connected to the TOP.

Note:

You can switch off the internal speaker of the combos by disconnecting the plug at the "SPEAKER" connector and connect one or two external speaker boxes to the "SPEAKER" + "EXT SP" sockets. (These two sockets are connected in parallel). The optimum impedance matching of the amplifier is 8 Ohm. But it can be between 4 to 16 ohms. The circuitry of the output stage is designed to handle speaker adaptations from 4 to 16 ohms without any problems.

### **“TWEETER” switch**

The "TWEETER" switch (only in the version with a tweeter) is used to switch the tweeter on and off in the first channel. In the second channel, the tweeter is automatically switched off.

Note:

The switch can be used in both channels by insert a solder bridge on the main board (only to be carried out by qualified personnel). The tweeter can then be switched on or off in both channels.

### **“LINE OUT” connection**

The "LINE OUT" output is used for connection to a PA, etc. It is located (via a voltage divider without frequency response influence) directly at the loudspeaker output of the amplifier.

### **“SEND” + “RETURN” connections**

The "SEND" + "RETURN" sockets can be used to connect all common effect devices. This applies to both battery-powered pedals and 19" studio equipment. To do this, connect "SEND" to the input and "RETURN" to the output of the effect unit.

Furthermore, the "SEND" output can be used as line out and the "RETURN" input for controlling the output stage of the "blue note". Both are directly in front of the "VOLUME" controls of the amplifier.

### **“FOOTSWITCH” connection**

The "FOOTSWITCH" jack is for connecting the 2-gang footswitch. With it you can switch the two channels and switch off the reverb.

### **Folding system**

A folding unit is integrated into the rear wall of the "blue note", which makes it possible to tilt the amp to approx. 45° for direct sound reinforcement. For this purpose, only 2 wing screws are loosely turned (these are located at the back left and right in the upper, inner area of the housing). Then the lower rear wall is folded out and the two wing screws are retightened (not too tightly). Now the amplifier can be placed at an angle.

When folding back the folding unit, make sure that it is firmly seated against the stop.

Tip: in the case of a loosely screwed folding unit, press the lower rear wall inwards with your left hand and firmly tighten the left wing screw with your right hand. The other way round on the right.

#### **Note:**

If the amplifier is prone to background noise (resonance humming) at certain tones, it is likely that the folding device is the cause of the evil if it is not firmly fixed when folded in.

## **Technical Data**

- Output power: approx. 30 Watt at 8 Ohm
- Tube assembly: 4 x ECC83S JJ 2 X6V6GC JJ
- Power consumption: max. 80 Watt
- Dimensions: COMBO: approx. 30 x 52 x 49 DxWxH (cm incl. cover and handle)  
TOP: approx. 28 x 52 x 20 DxWxH (cm incl. cover and handle)
- Weight: COMBO: approx. 12 Kg TOP: approx. 5,7 kg
- Loudspeakers: Standard: JENSEN P12/100BB