

45RPM SKY 5e3 SP Manual

Thank you for the purchase of your 45RPM SKY 5e3 SP guitar amplifier. Here we will explain how to get started, what things do and adjusting your new amplifier.

Front and Rear Panels



THE QUICK SETUP

OK, you don't like manuals or you just want to play your amp right now.

1. Connect the foot pedal and din cable to the amp. ***Be sure to have a speaker plugged in.***
2. Plug in the power cord.
3. Set knobs and switches like the pictures above.
4. Turn power switch to "ON"
5. Plug in a guitar and turn down guitar volume controls.
6. Turn "WARMUP" switch to "GO".
7. Play and have fun.

AMPLIFIER DETAILS

About the Front Panel Controls & Functions



INPUT – Plug in here.

5e3 Channel – This channel draws its heritage from the Narrow Panel Tweed Deluxe. That is it's launching point but we take it to a whole other level. It has great vintage tone that can also utilize our exciting OD Section. It is a simple Pre Amp so it is **Very Energetic**. Clean, it has a wonderful ringing quality. Routed through the OD Section it just wants to take off with lively harmonics all over the neck.

5e3 Tone Stack – Because the 5e3 is such a simple Pre it wants to go into distortion very quickly. A typical vintage Tweed Deluxe is a difficult amplifier to get to play clean and loud. Our circuit has a Dedicated Clean Master Volume so it can play clean at high volume levels. That is quite fun and sounds particularly nice. Keeping the pre amp clean allows the OD Section to work with exceptional results.

5e3 Volume – This is where you can set the level for optimum performance. **We find the most useful Volume Setting for the 5e3 Channel is 3 or a little lower.**

5e3 Tone – A lot of R&D has gone into this simple yet powerful circuit. Turning it up gives a nice Mid and Upper Mid Boost while turning it down reduces the sharp artifacts commonly associated with a cranked pre amp of this type. This does not drop all the tone when turned down that you normally experience with standard Tweed tone controls. We have focused on the most usable range instead.

The SKY Channel – This channel draws its heritage from a famous ODS style amplifier. It has some of the finest clean tones you can find and an amazing Overdrive. This is a sophisticated circuit that tracks extremely accurately capturing all the subtleties of pick attack and is one of the most harmonically rich and flexible channels made. In the Overdrive Mode with its overabundance of harmonic content your guitar will want to take off all over the neck. And with tight tracking your guitar will play accurately, fast, and if you want it, on the edge of out of control. Fun.

SKY Tone Stack

- **Volume** – This is where you set the Preamp Level.
- **Treble** – Adjusts the high frequency response for both clean and overdrive modes.
- **Middle** – Adjusts the mid frequency response for both clean and overdrive modes.
- **Bass** – Adjusts low frequencies in your amplifier for both clean and overdrive modes.
- **Mid Boost (via the Foot Switch)** – A midrange frequency boost. You can use this to add fatness to clean or overdrive tones. When Mid Boost is OFF you can get very scooped BF Styled Cleans. We particularly like using the MID BOOST with the Overdrive Mode.
- **SPTB (via the Foot Switch)** – Turns on the Sparkle Top Boost Frequency Shift in the SKY Preamp. Love this function.

CLEAN MASTERS

- **5e3** – The Master Volume of the 5e3 Clean Channel.
- **SKY** – The Master Volume of the SKY Clean Channel.

**Note from The Builder: The 5e3 Pre Amp is a much simpler Pre than the SKY. As tone stacks are subtractive not additive, that means the 5e3 lets much more energy and volume through compared to the SKY tone stack. Use the individual Clean Masters to set the clean volumes relative to each other to achieve a balance between the two channels. The SKY Master will be set higher to achieve the same volume as the 5e3 (as in the front panel pictures included in this manual).*

OVERDRIVE / DRIVE CONTROL – Adjusts the amount of gain, and distortion in the overdrive mode.

OVERDRIVE MASTERS

- **5E3 OD** – The Master OD Volume for the 5e3 Channel.
- **SKY OD** – The Master OD Volume for the SKY Channel
- **BSC OD** – This is a Master OD Volume for a **POST- OD UK STYLE TONE STACK** accessible via the Foot Switch

About the Rear Panel Functions



CONTROL DEFINITIONS

MAINS - plug your IEC power cable into this inlet to power your amplifier

SLOW BLOW FUSES – used to protect your amplifier from voltage spikes or excessive current draw.

PRESENCE - Adjusts the high frequency response of the power amplifier using negative feedback. Use this control to add sparkle and clarity to your tone

POWER

Off / On - Toggle Switch

Go / Warmup – This switch applies high voltage to the vacuum tube anodes (and screen grids) while playing the amp. To ensure long tube life, first power the unit on with the toggle switch in **WARMUP** position for at least 30 seconds. Switch to **GO** to use the amp. With the toggle switch in the **UP** position, the amp is in **OPERATE** mode. In the **DOWN** position, the amp is in **WARMUP** mode. Note: this is not a “standby” switch. Speakers **MUST** be plugged in at all times.

Note: *ONCE YOU HAVE FOLLOWED THE DIRECTIONS IN THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPHS WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU TURN THE AMPLIFIER ON, WITH THE SWITCH IN THE **GO** POSITION FOR AT LEAST A HALF AN HOUR. THE AMPLIFIER WILL SOUND EVEN BETTER IF YOU FOLLOW THIS SUGGESTION AND LET IT WARM UP.*

SPEAKER OUTPUT - use a 1/4” speaker cable to connect your speaker cabinet to the amplifier using these jacks.

The SKY 5e3 SP 20W Amp has an 8-ohm output if you are just using the internal speaker. If you want to use an additional 8 ohm extension cabinet then use the two 4 ohm outputs.

While using the Sky 5e3 SP 45 W Amp with one speaker cabinet use the jack labeled MAIN. Use the **IMPEDANCE SELECTOR** to set to the position that matches the impedance of your speaker cabinet.

If you want to run two cabinets in parallel, connect the second cabinet to the amplifier using the jack labeled EXTENSION and set the **IMPEDANCE SELECTOR** to the appropriate setting. You must use two speakers with the same impedance rating. Set the impedance switch to half the impedance of one cabinet. For two 16-ohm speakers set the switch to 8 ohms. Two 8-ohm speakers should be set to 4 ohms.

***IMPORTANT WARNING – Never turn your amplifier to OPERATE mode without connecting the amplifier to a speaker cabinet or suitable dummy load. Failing to do so may damage your amplifier!**

ABOUT THE EFFECTS LOOP

This is an all tube-based Series/Parallel Loop. To run in series turn the mix control all the way clockwise. In the parallel mode there is always an unadulterated dry signal of the amplifier in this FX Loop. Effects are mixed with the dry signal, much like a professional recording studio mixing console.

Turn the mix knob full counter clockwise and the signal is dry. Then turn the mix knob clockwise until you find a mix that suits you. Generally it is a good idea to listen to the dry signal volume level (knob turned full counter clockwise) and then set your mix control to the same relative volume as the dry signal.

Jacks and Knobs

RETURN of the effects loop. Plug the output of your effects unit, or interface device into this jack using 1/4" instrument cable.

SEND of the effects loop. Plug the input of your effects unit, or interface device into this jack using 1/4" instrument cable.

MIX CONTROL – this control sets the amount of effected signal that is mixed with the **Unadulterated Amplifier Dry Signal**. Counter clockwise is dry, clockwise is wet.

LEVEL – this control is the **over all master output level for the loop and the dry signal**

SETTING UP YOUR EFFECTS LOOP

FX Level and Master Controls

Turn down the level control for safety. Adjust slowly. It's loud!

Set the Master Controls so that you get:

1. A good mix between the pre amps and...
2. As strong a signal to your outboard processor without clipping.

By their nature, clean channels are more dynamic and are easier to send your effects unit into clipping. Please refer to your effects unit's manual as many have input and output controls to use in conjunction with your send controls to find the best balance.

FX Mix Control

Turn the Mix Control fully clockwise for Series Operation.

To use it as a parallel loop, set your outboard processor to Full Wet. Turn you Mix Control all the way counter clockwise (DRY) then gradually turn the Mix Control clockwise to mix in the desired wet signal.

Generally it is a good idea to listen to the dry signal volume level (knob turned full counter clockwise) and then set your mix control to the same relative volume as the dry signal.

One of the best characteristics of this FX Loop is that **The Pure Tone Never Leaves the Amplifier**. You simply mix in the desired amount of processed signal.

WARNING!

Large volume differences are possible when you switch the FX Loop on and off. Always turn DOWN the Masters on the Front Panel and the FX Level on the back of the amp when making new adjustments to your FX Loop Levels.

Other Rear Controls

OD TRIM – This control is part of the circuit that controls the amount of signal sent into the first stage of the overdrive. Historically in vintage ODS amplifiers; this control was a trim pot inside the amplifier chassis. Different settings on this control can yield dramatically different results to the tone, amount of gain, and feel of the overdrive channel. Increasing the control will increase the gain and compression in the overdrive channel and will impact its frequency response. Decreasing control will decrease the gain and increase dynamics of the overdrive channel. Generally we are running the trim between 11:30 and 1 o'clock.

BSC OD – This is a mode that changes the characteristics of the OD Section of the amp. This mode inserts a post OD English Styled Tone Stack into the OD Section (with Treble, Mid and Bass Tone Controls). In the SKY Channel this mode also automatically simplifies the Standard EQ Stack and Rocks Out quite nicely!

When used with the 5E3 preamp, it is reminiscent of the best hot rod British amps, from vintage medium gain to full on.

When used with the Sky channel, it turns into a different animal. The low end is tighter and it gives unequalled note definition. Vintage tones are available here, as well as more modern ones.

BSC OD TONE CONTROLS – These are the tone controls for the BSC English Style Post Overdrive Mode

Switches

5E3 / SKY CHANNEL SELECTOR - Switches between the 5e3 and SKY Preamps

OVERDRIVE - two-way toggle switch manually switches between clean and overdrive channels. If you are using the foot pedal, set this in the PEDAL position. If you are not using the included foot pedal, the toggle switch in the PEDAL position switches the amplifier to OVERDRIVE mode. In the upper position, the amplifier is in CLEAN mode.

BSC – Turns on the BSC OVERDRIVE mode

FOOT SWITCH DIN PLUG – An 8-pin DIN female jack is used to connect the foot pedal to the amplifier. Use the foot pedal to Switch the SKY / 5E3 Channel Select, OVERDRIVE, MID BOOST, SPTB and BSC.

About the Foot Pedal Functions



FOOT SWITCH FUNCTIONS

SPTB – Turns on the Sparkle Top Boost Frequency Shift in the SKY Preamp

MID – Turns on the Mid Boost in the SKY Preamp

SKY – Switches between the 5e3 and SKY Preamps

OD – Switches on the Overdrive Circuit for either Preamp

BSC – Turns on the BSC OVERDRIVE mode

This one of the great features of this amplifier is the key functions can be accessed in real time via the foot switch.

CE – All of our amplifiers are built to CE Safety Standards.