

# TUBE WORKS

## Blue Tube<sup>TM</sup> Rack

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### OWNER'S MANUAL

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We thank you for your purchase of the most versatile and best designed tube preamp rack on the market. We are confident this product will meet your desires to acquire the Real "TUBE" sound.

#### **TAKE TIME TO KNOW THE "RACK"**

The rack is a very versatile unit. Please take the necessary time to look over this manual and become familiar with the basic layout of controls as well as the unique features. Take time and let your ears guide you through the tonal possibilities. The EQ sections have been carefully optimized for current and classic playing styles and have an extremely wide range of control. It is possible that you may be just a "tweak" away from your desired sound, so be patient and jot down the settings that you prefer most. Also become fully aware of the ranges of uses this product was designed for—everything from use as an effects rack to that of a stand-alone pre-amp.

#### **APPLICATIONS OVERVIEW**

The BLUE TUBE RACK is more versatile than one might expect at first glance. While the basic design is an effects rack, it has several other functions as well. For example, it can be used as a stand-alone pre-amp for basic power amps of any power. The authentic "TUBE" sound is thus produced at a SPL (Sound Pressure Level) potentially exceeding any combo or stage amp made today! Another use finding great appeal is the use of the unit "direct to the board" in recording work. The inclusion of line level input and output jacks enables it to be used at high board levels for patches and loops.

As originally conceived, the BLUE TUBE products are essentially bass and keyboard oriented. While they remain so, we are also finding more and more jazz, fusion, country, and even rock guitar artists using the BLUE TUBE in various ways, in and out of the studio, to warm up and add aural enhancement that only tubes can produce. While clean tube sound is a main feature, there is still plenty of "drive" left in the BLUE TUBE to get distortion and tube crunch (similar to standard Marshall sensitivity).

## FRONT PANEL CONTROLS (Left to Right)

**BOOST SWITCH** — Increases the amount of gain to the tube by 10dB. The switch is overridden when a footswitch line is connected to the "Boost" jack on the rear panel. Very useful when you want to emphasize a lead or add rare crunch and drive for a short period.

**BYPASS SWITCH** — Switches the unit in and out of the effects chain. The Red LED is lit when the unit is active in the chain. This switch is also overridden when a footswitch is connected to the "Bypass" jack on the rear panel.

**DRIVE CONTROL** — Also can be thought of as a "Volume" control. This control sets the pre-amp gain of the tube pre-amp section. When the cleanest sound is preferred (little distortion) set this control in the low range (usually "6" or less) and set the "Master" control on "10". As the "Master" setting is reduced, and the "Drive" setting is increased, more tube distortion will result.

**CONTOUR CONTROL** — Adjusts the amount of low frequencies or bottom end driven into the tube. Some players prefer a fatter texture to their sound, while others prefer a more articulated, less "muddy" contour. Moving this control toward "10" gives a fatter sound. Moving this control toward "0" will roll off the extreme bottom end. Overdrive use: It is usually advisable to use less bass with chords, while single string or note leads may sound better with more bottom end.

**BIAS CONTROL** — Actually adjusts the amount of cathode bias voltage of the tube stages, thereby regulating the amount of plate current. Non-technically speaking, this control has the effect of adjusting the overdrive characteristics from "hard" or "metallic" to "soft" or "compressed." A "10" setting gives the hardest, most direct sound. "8" actually gives the most sensitivity and warmth, but with some softening starting in. "0" may become too "mushy," but let your ears tell you what's best for your application. Note: Some DC noise is normal in this control when rotated.

**MASTER CONTROL** — Sets the overall output level of the rack.

**HI CONTROL** — Adjusts high end. Set at 1500 Hz and higher.

**MID CONTROL** — Adjusts mid-range frequencies. Center is 500-800 Hz.

**LOW CONTROL** — Shelves off lower frequencies from 100 Hz down.

**POWER SWITCH** — Supplies main AC power to the unit. The Green LED is lit when the power is on.

## REAR PANEL LAYOUT (Left to Right)

**LINE CORD** — Be sure to connect the unit to the proper voltage source. The current draw is negligible. A maximum of only 6 watts is consumed, but the unit can be damaged if proper voltage ratings are not adhered to.

**LINE OUT JACK** — Line level out jack. This level will drive basic power amps, and operate at normal line levels (0 dBV).

**INST. OUT JACK.** — Instrument level output jack. This output should be used to connect the unit to the input of a regular "combo" or stage amplifier "instrument" input. Instrument levels are generally used in amplifier effects loops.

**LINE IN JACK** — Line level input jack. This can be particularly useful in the studio and with line-level equipment (0 dBV nominal levels). NOT A REGULAR GUITAR INPUT!

**INST. IN JACK** — Normal instrument input. This input would also be used for low level (normal) effects loops on most amplifiers. NOTE: The use of this input and the "Line Out" jack enables the rack to act as an instrument pre-amp for basic power amps. The "Inst. Out" jack should be used for normal effects loop operation.

**FT. SW. BOOST & BYPASS JACKS** — Permits the use of standard "on-off" footswitches to remotely switch the "Boost" and "Bypass" functions. Front panel "Boost" and "Bypass" switches are automatically overridden with footswitch use.

## WARRANTY

Your TUBE WORKS product is warranted for a period of one year against defects in workmanship or materials in the electronic components. The speaker(s), reverb tank and cabinet (if applicable) are warranted for a period of ninety (90) days.

This warranty applies only to the original registered owner provided he/she has returned a completely filled-out OWNER'S REGISTRATION CARD within fifteen (15) days of purchase.

This warranty covers parts and labor only; shipping charges remain the sole responsibility of the owner. Damage due to misuse, modification or abuse is excluded from this warranty.

If service is required, you must contact Genz Benz Enclosures/Tube Works for a **RETURN MERCHANDISE AUTHORIZATION NUMBER (RMA)** by calling 480-941-0705. Whenever possible please use original packaging material for all returns, this will insure that the units are not further damaged in transit.

Manufacturer is not responsible for consequential or inconsequential damages resulting from any application or use of this product. Manufacturer and sales agents assume no liability or responsibility for safety or injury relating to the use of BLUE TUBE, and user agrees to hold manufacturer and designer harmless in this regard. This is the full extent of the warranty; no other warranties are implied or intended.

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