



FINE
TUNE
YOUR
TONE



3/100 Top Users' Manual

Release 02

May 2006

Please read this manual carefully before using the amp

How to Read and Use the Information in this Manual

We advise you to read through this manual thoroughly. To keep things simple, we have designed it in such a way that three different levels of information are offered for each section.



1st Level

For a short summary of the essential information contained in the manual, please take the time to read at least those paragraphs marked with the jet icon. This should take you less than 5 minutes.



2nd Level

If you feel you want to learn about the amp head in more detail without having to read through the entire manual, read those sections where you see the jet and car icons. This approach will take you around 10 minutes.



3rd Level

To learn about the amp head in even greater detail (but without having to read every single part of the manual), read also those sections where you see the ship icon. Reading the manual at this level will give you an excellent grounding in the features of the 3/100 Top, and should take no more than about 25 minutes.

The Valve 3/100 Top - The Highlights!

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Introduction

Congratulations on choosing the 3/100 Top. It gives us great pleasure to welcome you as a member of The Valve family. We will be delighted to thank you for placing your trust in us by providing you with reliable, always-available support to allow you to really tap the potential of this extraordinary amp head.

One of the major challenges faced by any maker of musical instruments is how to allow musicians to reproduce the precise sound they have in mind. As a guitarist, you should always - whether in the studio or on stage - be in a position to reproduce your personal sounds, the ones that you've been working hard to refine and develop in your head. As musicians and amp makers, our mission is simple: to provide you with products that, once the gig is under way, you will never have to turn away from the audience to adjust.

Amplifiers from The Valve are designed to provide you with the map to your sound. The front and rear panels display tonal capacity only. By reading this instruction manual you will discover how, with just a little bit of maintenance and care, this amp head will give you great enjoyment for many years to come.

Warnings



The lightning flash with an arrowhead symbol within a triangle is intended to alert you about the presence of an un-insulated "dangerous voltages" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to users.



The exclamation point within a triangle is intended to alert the user about the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature that accompanies the product.

3/100 TOP

3-channel MIDI amplifier

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Packaging Information

On receipt of the package, please check it carefully to ensure that it has not sustained damage during transit and that there are no missing parts. We recommend that you retain the packaging material should you need to ship or carry the amp from one place to another.

Before Using the Amp



- 1) check that the power outlet is grounded before turning on the amp
- 2) before turning the amp on, make sure that the power supply specifications on the back panel conform to the supply where you intend to use the amp
- 3) do not expose the amp to moisture, direct sunlight, water or high temperatures
- 4) always use replacement tubes of the same type and rating
- 5) remove the plug from the socket before replacing a fuse
- 6) protect your hands when handling hot tubes
- 7) servicing should only be carried out by qualified technicians
- 8) never plug the amp into an ungrounded socket
- 9) before use, give the amp time to acclimatize to the environment in which you intend to use it
- 10) keep the amplifier away from children.

Prolonged exposure to sound at high volumes may result in damage to the ears and/or hearing loss.



Caution!

Never attempt to open the chassis yourself. Only qualified service technicians should open the chassis. Do not introduce any foreign object into the jacks. E2 group device according to CEI EN 55103-1 EN 55103-2, following EMC classification.

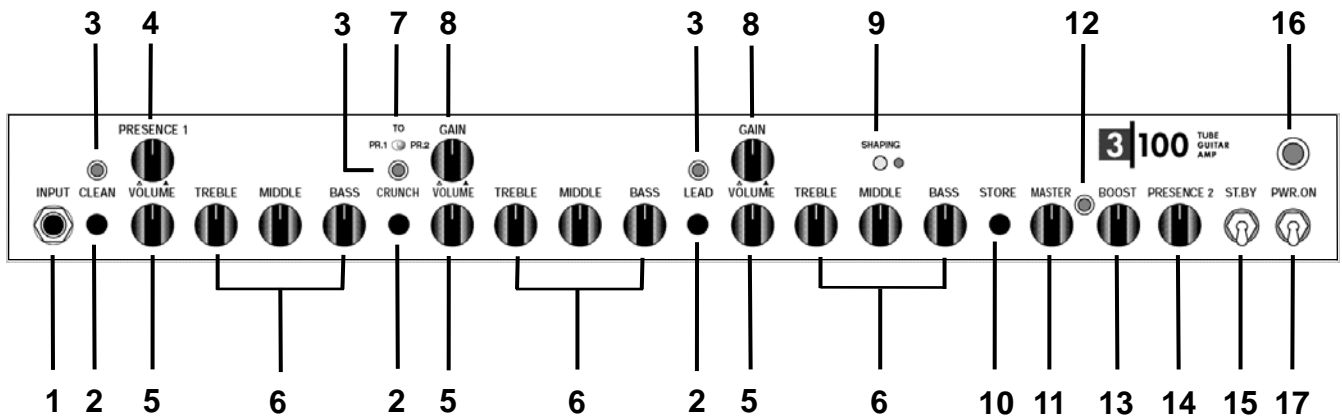
Please fill in the following information for warranty purposes and future reference:

Model : The Valve 3/100 Guitar Head
Serial number :
Dealer's address :
Dealer's name :
Date of purchase :

Engineered by:
TBE S.r.l.
Via della Tecnica 51/b
40068 San Lazzaro di Savena (Bo)
Italy
Ph: +39 51 6258433
Fax: +39 51 6257784

Email: servicing@the-valve.com
Web: <http://www.the-valve.com>

Front Panel View



(1) Input Jack

(Please read up to and including No. 17). Accepts low- and high- input (such as active pickup) levels.

(2) Channel Selection Buttons

Use these buttons to select channels, press twice to select the Boost function.

(3) Channel Selection LEDs

These LEDs, located next to the respective volume controls, light up when the given channel is selected, thus indicating which channel is currently active. Selecting the Clean channel lights up the green LED, selecting the Crunch channel lights up the yellow LED, and selecting the Lead channel lights up the red LED.

(4) Presence 1 Control

This presence control functions only with the Clean channel, to which it adds definition and brilliance. Presence can be controlled on the Crunch channel also by using the Pr1/Pr2 switch. Please refer to point "7".

(5) Volume Controls

Controls the output level of each channel independently

(6) Tone Controls

Bass, middle and treble controls designed to give maximum tonal variation.

(7) Pr1, Pr2 Switch

Turn this switch to the left to produce a typically British Crunchy sound. Turn it to the right to beef up the sound by increasing the bottom end. This switch also allows you to process the Crunch channel's high frequencies through the Clean channel presence knob (switch to Pr1 position) or to the Lead channel presence knob (switch to Pr2 position).

(8) Gain Controls

These are used to control the amount of gain - in other words to adjust the overdrive level of the Crunch and Lead channels. Turn this control clockwise until the desired amount of distortion is produced.

(9) Shaping Button

Pushing this button scoops the mid-range on the Lead channel. This is very useful for when

you want to switch immediately from a scooped, rhythm sound to go into a screaming solo. For more information on shaping please refer to the appropriate section on page 10.

(10) Store Switch

Press and hold the 'Store' button to MIDI-store the status of the channel (Boost on or off) and the shaping function. For more information on MIDI, please refer to the MIDI interface section on page 12.

(11) Master Control

This is used to set the overall output level of the amplifier.

(12) Boost Led

The blue LED indicates that the Boost Function is selected. It flashes to indicate that the amplifier has stored one of the programmable functions.

(13) Boost Master

This control acts as a separate adjustable Master Volume for solos. It delivers both volume (by turning the knob) and gain (by adjusting the trimmer on the chassis). For further



information about adjusting the Boost trimmer, please contact us at servicing@the-valve.com

(14) Presence 2 Control

This presence control adds definition and brilliance to the sound of the Lead channel. Presence can be controlled on the Crunch channel also by using the Pr1/Pr2 switch. Please refer to point "7".

(15) Stand by Switch

This switch mutes the amp by switching off the high-voltage circuitry while allowing the tubes filaments to remain warmed up and ready for immediate use. Switching to standby when you won't be playing for some time helps to increase the life of the tubes.

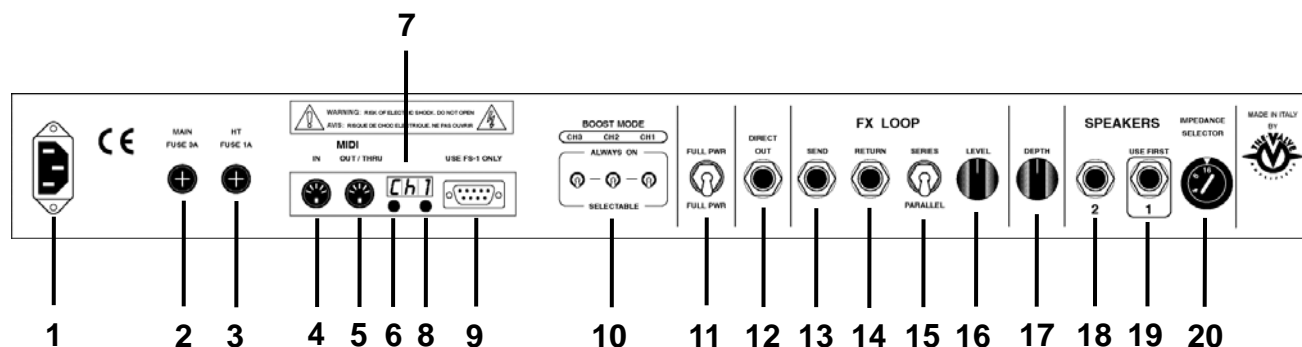
(16) Power on Indicator Light

The red light is illuminated when the amp is switched on.

(17) Power on Switch

The master on/off switch for the amp.

Rear Panel View





(1) AC Socket

(Please read up to and including No. 20). Connect the supplied AC cord here.



(2 -3) Fuses

The Main fuse protects the amp from damage in case of power tube failure or external AC fluctuations. The HT fuse protects the high-voltage part of the circuit. If a fuse blows, it is extremely important to replace it with another fuse of the same type and rating. To prevent any risk of electric shock, it is recommended that you disconnect the power cord before replacing the fuse. If the fuse blows repeatedly, take your amplifier to your dealer or to a technician for servicing.

(4) MIDI IN

This socket receives MIDI information from a MIDI-enabled device that is sending commands to the amplifier (MIDI foot controller, etc). For more information on MIDI, please refer to the MIDI interface section on page 12.

(5) MIDI OUT/THRU

The MIDI OUT/THRU performs two different functions: when receiving information from the MIDI IN, this port automatically duplicates the MIDI IN data to make it MIDI THRU. Conversely, if the passive FS-1 foot-switch (supplied with the unit) is connected, this port acts as a MIDI OUT with the capacity to send "Program Change" data, which can be defined using the set-up display found on the rear panel. For more information on MIDI, please refer to the MIDI interface section on page 12.

(6) Set Button

Please refer to "MIDI OUT" section on page 13.

(7) 3 Digit Setup Display

Please refer to "MIDI OUT" section on page 13.

(8) Inc (increment) Button

Please refer to "MIDI OUT" section on page 13.

(9) FS-1 Connector

Connect the FS-1 foot-switch (supplied with the unit) here.

(10) Boost Mode Selection

If you like the sound of one channel when the Boost function is switched on (e.g. the Lead channel), you can select it permanently by moving the switch to the "always on" position. For more information on the Boost function, please refer to the relevant section on page 11.

(11) "Full Pwr" and "Half Pwr" Switch

This switch determines the overall output power of the amplifier. In the "Full power" position, all four output tubes are active and the amplifier is generating maximum power. In the "Half power" position, two of the output tubes are turned off and power is reduced by approximately 30%. This function can prove very useful in recording studios or small clubs where less power may be what is required. The low-power setting also produces its own distinctive tone and is worth exploring fully.

(12) Direct Out

Use this output when you want the signal to be passed to an external effects chain and, subsequently, to another power amp in order to give you separate amp-direct processed signals. For more information on the Direct Out function, please refer to the relevant section on page 14.

(13) Send Jack

Connect this jack to the input jack of your effects unit.

(14) Return Jack

Connect this jack to the output jack of your effects unit.

(15) Series/Parallel Selector

Use this switch to select the series or parallel FX Loop mode. For more information on the FX loop function, please refer to the relevant section on page 11.

(16) Level

In parallel mode, this knob allows you to control the balance of the direct and processed signals being send to the cabinets. Turn clockwise to add more processed signal. Turn counter-clockwise to add more of the dry signal.

(17) Depth Control

The depth control enhances the bottom end of the Crunch and Lead channels. You can use it wherever you need a fatter sound or you want to fatten the sound of a single coil pickup.

(18/19) Speaker Jacks

Any cabinet with 4, 8 or 16 ohm impedance can be connected to the two parallel-wired speaker outputs. If both speaker jacks are used the total load must be minimum 4 ohms and maximum 16 ohms. Connect speakers with unshielded speaker cable only..

(20) Impedance Selector Switch

Select 4, 8 or 16 ohm impedance: use this switch to match your amp impedance to the cabinet(s) you are using. When connecting two 8-ohm cabinets, remember to set the switch to 4 ohms, whereas, when using two 16-ohm cabinets, set the impedance to 8 ohms.

General Operating Instructions

Getting Started



Plug the speaker cord (supplied with the unit) into the Speaker 1 output. Check the ohm impedance load of the cabinet(s) you are going to use and adjust the impedance selector switch on the rear panel of the amp accordingly. Make sure that all controls are set to the 12 o'clock position except the Master and the Boost knobs. As you can see, each channel has its own independent tone control for maximum tone flexibility. Connect the cabinet using the supplied cord. Turn on the amp using the Power On switch on the front panel. Wait for around 1 minute and then turn on the Stand By switch. You can now plug your guitar in. Every time the amp is turned on, it will automatically select the Clean channel. Twist the Master Volume knob to the 9 o'clock position and PLAY! Run through the three channels using the black channel selection buttons on the front panel to hear the different tones.



(Please continue reading until the end of the next page). You can now connect the FS-1 foot-switch (supplied with the unit) to the 9-pole D-SUB connector on the rear panel. Your new 3/100 amplifier features very sophisticated tone circuitry that makes it possible for you to produce an array of customized sounds. Use the tone controls to achieve the sound you want. We recommend that you refrain from applying

extreme tone equalization settings. Remember, while playing at high volume levels, lowering the bass control may improve note definition and increasing the treble and mid controls may help to project the sound further and cut through the groove. Start by gently twisting the tone controls to find out how they work, then adjust the presence and control and add the desired level of harmonics and brightness to your sound. Now please select the Crunch or Lead channels, either by pushing the relevant button once or using the foot-switch. Adjust the tone controls to achieve the desired effect, just as you did with the Clean channel. Adjust the Depth control on rear panel. You can also customize the amount of overdrive by turning the gain control.

Special Operating Features

Using the PR1, PR2 Switch

Note the mini toggle switch above the Crunch channel selection button. This switch alters the sound to give you two different tones. By turning the switch to the left, you can produce a typically British Crunch sound. Turning it to the right will "beef up" the sound by increasing the bottom end. This switch also allows you to process the high frequencies of the Crunch channel through the Clean channel presence knob (switch to the PR1 position) or through the Lead channel presence knob (switch on the PR2 position).



Using the Boost Mode

Once you've mastered the basics, you can concentrate on one of the most exciting features of this amp: the **Boost** control. This acts as a separate volume control for solos and can be set for all channels. Please select one of the three channels. By pressing the selection button a second time (or the dedicated Boost button on the foot-switch), you will turn the Boost function on and off.

Adjust the desired amount of volume for your solo using the Boost control and then press the channel selection switch again to return to the standard channel function. Every time you reactivate the Boost function (through the selection switch on the front panel, through the optional foot-switch or through a MIDI pedal board), you will produce the sound of the selected channel, increased by the volume level set using the Boost control, together with a small amount of gain. This minimal amount of gain is adjusted



via 3 trimmers located on the amp chassis. **DO NOT** attempt to adjust the trimmers by yourself. Please contact a specialist technician or write to us at servicing@the-valve.com.



Using the Shaping Mode

Note the small button that says "Shaping" on top of the middle control of the Lead channel. This feature creates a sort of hole in the mid range, which is very useful for powerful scooped rhythm sounds. The shaping function works with the Lead channel only. Its functionality can be independently set to the Lead channel in both normal mode and Boost mode. Setting the shaping function is worthwhile when you want, for example, to switch instantaneously from a scooped rhythm part to a screaming solo (where the mid-range comes to the fore). To activate this option, select the Lead channel and switch the shaping button on, then select the Lead channel with Boost and switch the shaping function off.

Boost Mode Switches

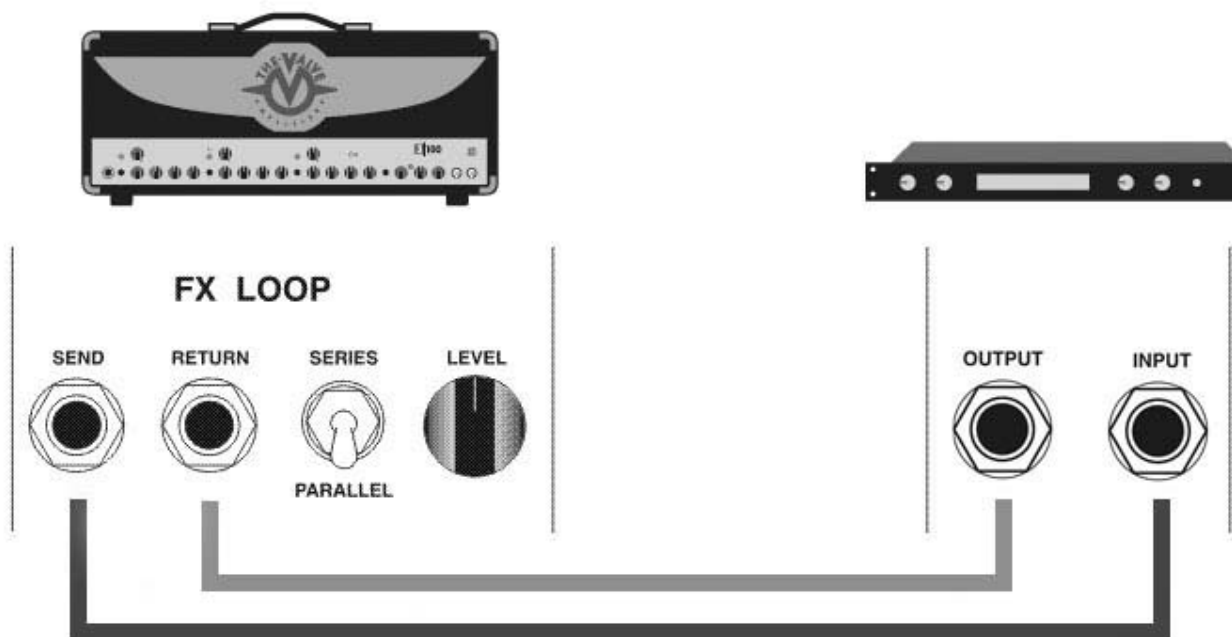


(Please continue reading until the end of this paragraph). This part of the rear panel shows 3 mini switches. They pre-set the functionality of the Boost mode. Each switch relates to one channel and allows you to pre-set Boost status that will be selected using the front panel button, the foot-switch or a Midi pedal board.

Always on: pre-sets the Boost function to come ON automatically every time the relevant channel is selected through the front panel buttons or through a foot-switch. *N.B. should you need momentarily to deselect the Boost, press the Boost button on the foot-switch once. The Boost function will be reactivated as soon as you select the channel*.
Selectable: using the front panel buttons to select the channels, in this mode you select and deselect the Boost mode on a desired channel each time you press that channel.

Using the Fx Loop

First, you have to decide whether to use a series or parallel effects loop connection. The difference between the two effects is that, in series mode, the signal going from your guitar through the amp to the cabinets is subject to the quality of the effect, whereas - in parallel mode - the original sound of your amp reaches the cabinets intact, meaning that the quality of the effect is not compromised in any way.



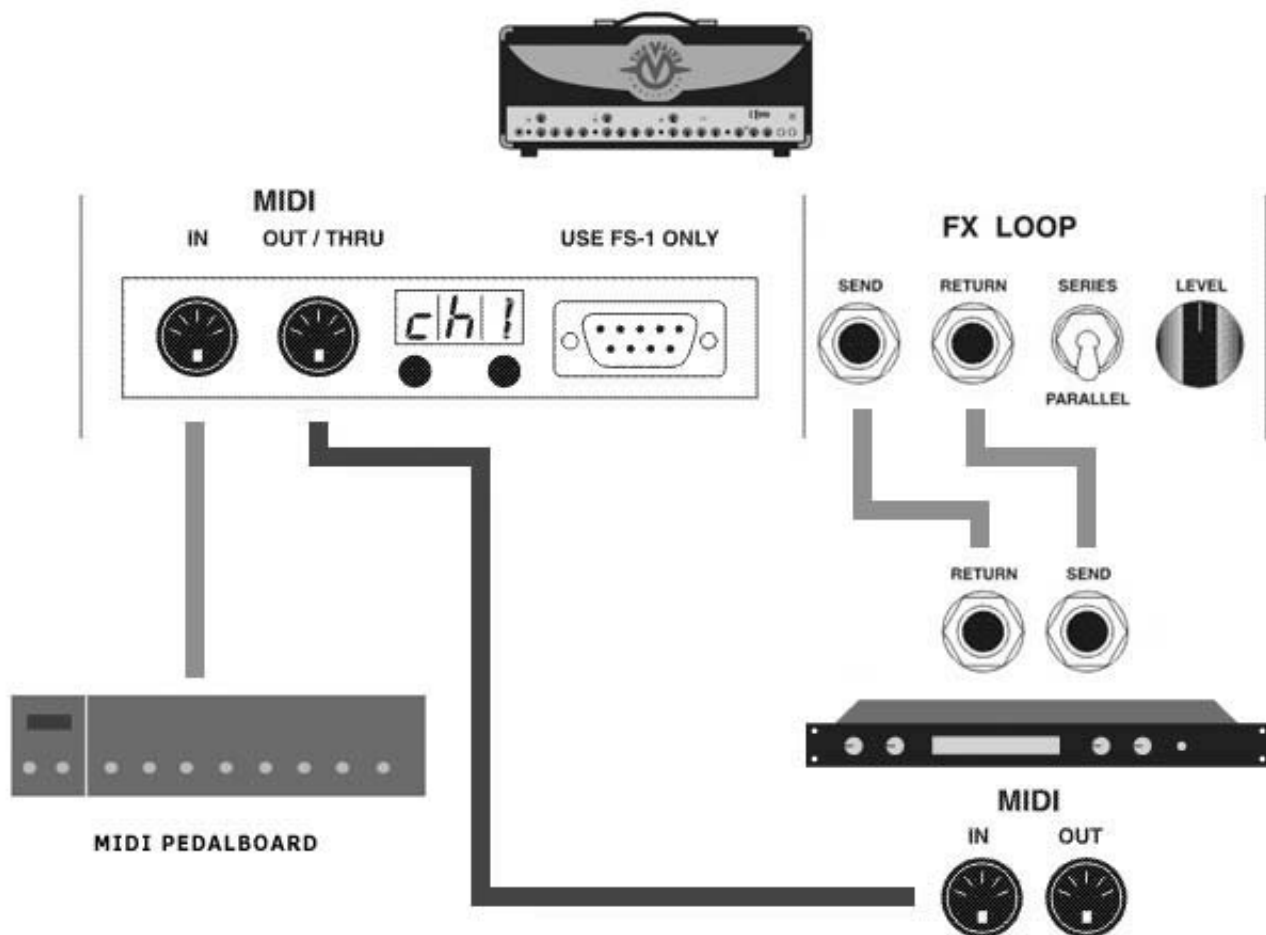
Proceed as follows:

If you want to use the parallel effects loop connection, select only the wet signal on the effects unit. Now use the Level knob to mix the level of the processed signal to the original sound of your amp. If you want to use the series effect loop connection, set the switch to Series and select the desired mix of wet and dry signal on the effects unit.

Using the Amp with a MIDI Pedal-board

Connect your MIDI foot-controller from The Valve or another manufacturer to the MIDI IN connection on the 3/100. You can also connect the MIDI OUT/THRU on the 3/100 to an external digital multi-effect unit.

- 1 - Select the required patch on your pedal board/midi controller.
- 2 - Select the Channel/Boost/Shaping settings on your amp.
- 3 - Press the store button. The blue Boost LED will start to flash, indicating that the store function is in process - hold the Store button until it stops flashing to complete the storing process. This operation lasts about 4 seconds. If for some reason you release the button before the blue LED stops flashing, the store operation will be cancelled. The MIDI OUT/THRU function automatically functions as MIDI THRU every time a message is received via the MIDI IN port. The MIDI firmware can be updated through the DB-9 connector located on the top of the chassis. For more info about upgrades, please contact us at: servicing@the-valve.com.



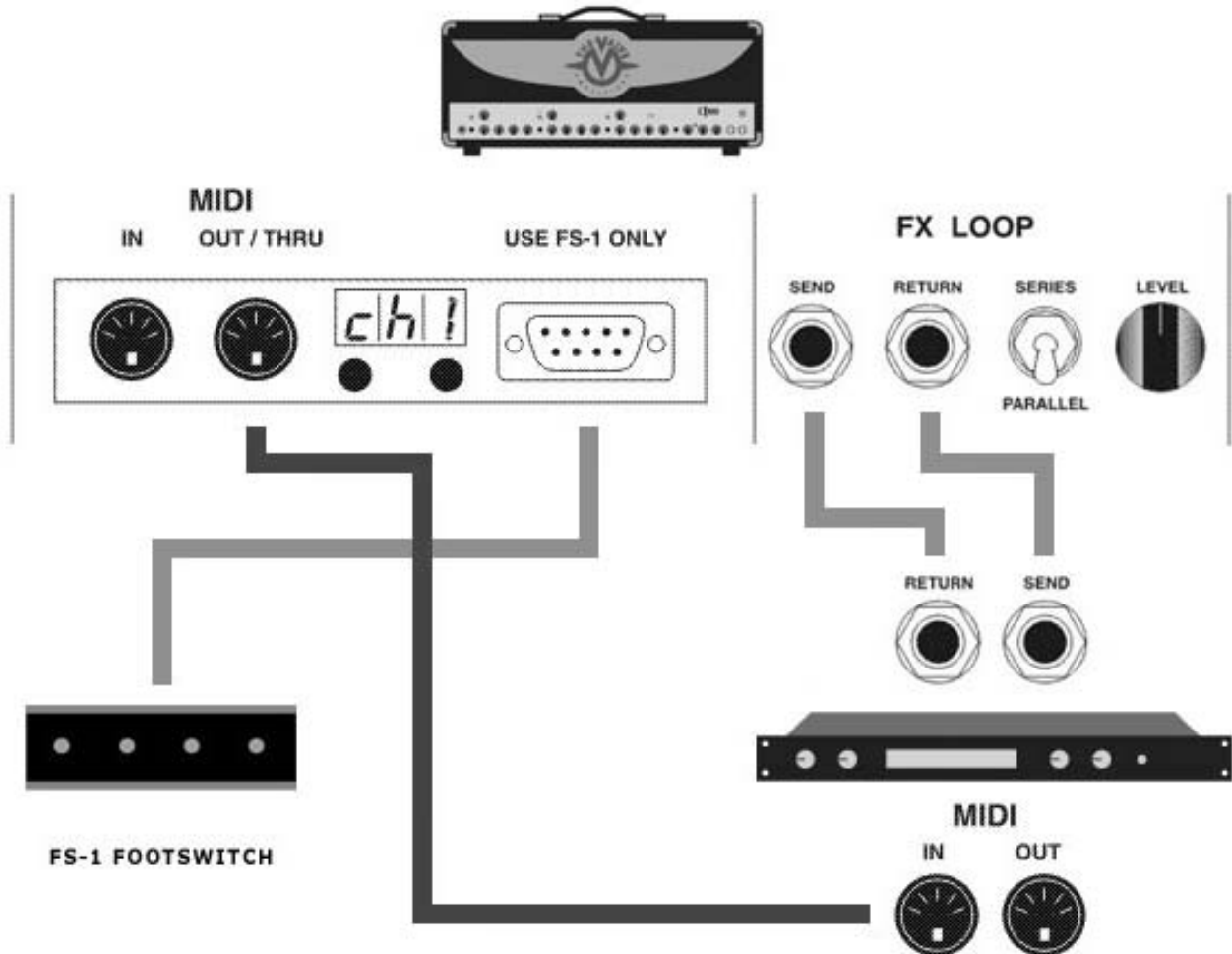
Using the MIDI OUT Mode

This amplifier allows you to also control other MIDI devices even without a MIDI controller simply by using the supplied FS-1 foot-switch pedal.

Once you have selected the desired amp function (Channel/Boost, e.g. Channel 3 with Boost) on the front panel or using the foot-switch (supplied with the unit), you can use the 3-digit display on the back panel to select the desired patch of a multi-effect device and store it. Please proceed as follows:

- 1 - Choose the amp channel with or without Boost (e.g. Channel 3 with Boost). The rear panel displays "ch3." where "ch" is short for "channel", "3" indicates that you have selected channel 3 and the "dot" means that the "Boost" function is active.
- 2 - Push the left button below the display. The display shows the patch number assigned to the amplifier's status (channel 3 with Boost).

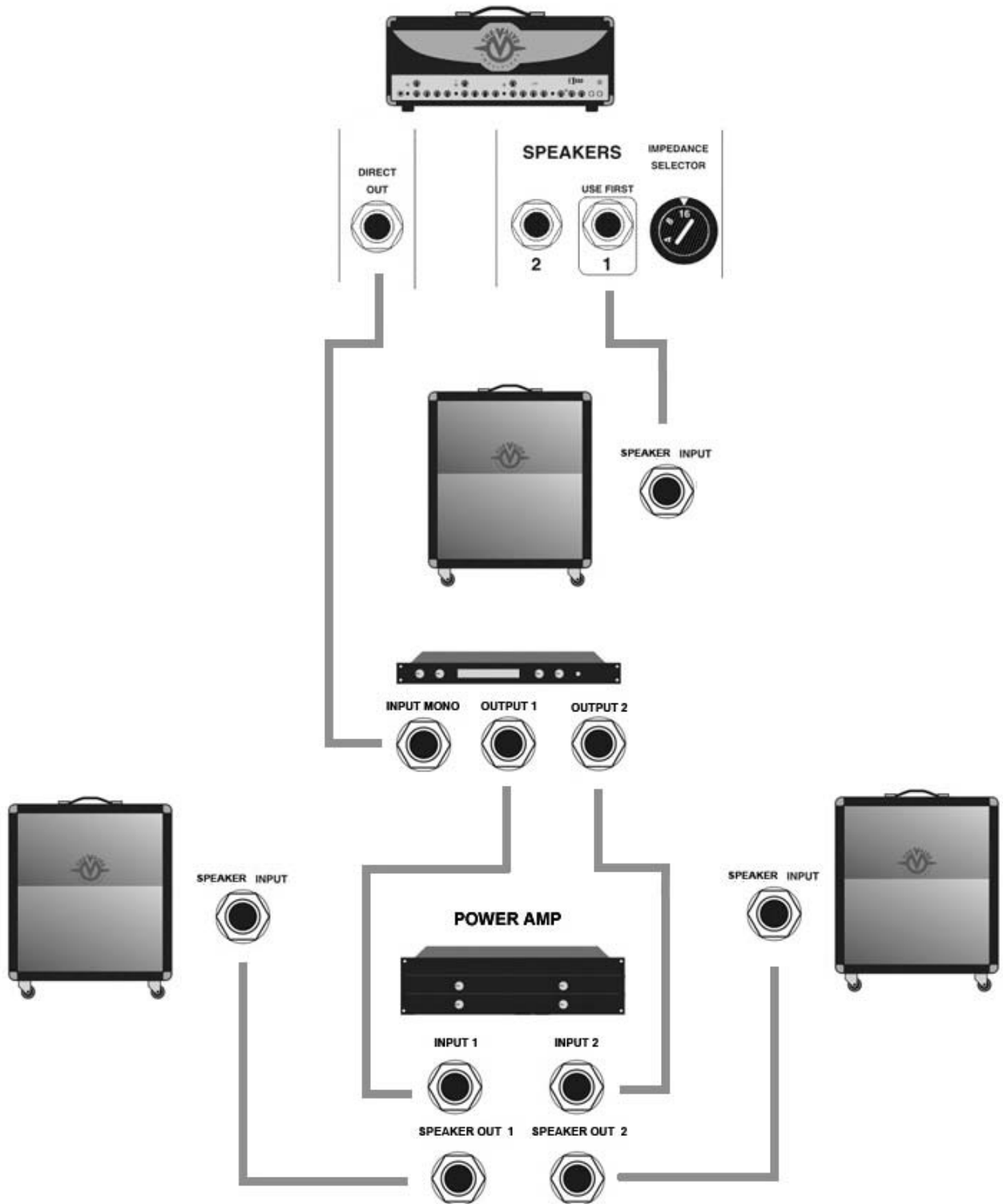
- 3 - Push the button on the right to select the desired patch (reverb, delays, etc) on the multi-effect device. By keeping the button depressed, the patch number will increase incrementally.
- 4 - press the left button again to store your setting.



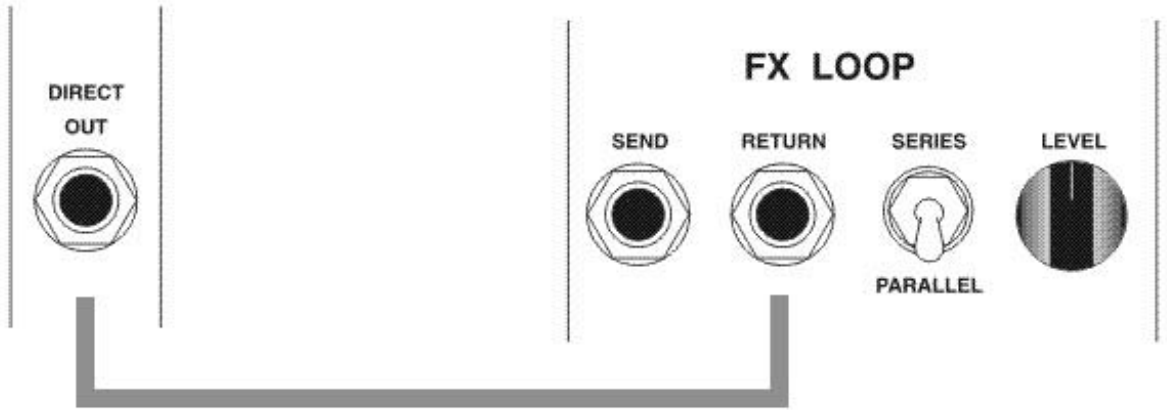
Using the Direct Out

This output may be used to connect a tuner or to connect to another FX processor. You can also use it to slave another amplifier for bi or tri-amping. Bi-amping means that you are running the guitar signal without effects through one speaker cabinet and with effects through another speaker cabinet.

Tri-amping means that you are the running the guitar signal without effects through one speaker cabinet while using the direct out to send signals to a stereo multi-effect device running a stereo power amp in order to give you a separate amp-processed signal going to 2 different cabinets.



Slaving



Warranty

Thank you for purchasing a product from THE VALVE. We are sure that you will be more than satisfied with your choice. Should your amplifier need in-warranty servicing, please contact the dealer where it was purchased or, alternatively, contact THE VALVE directly. In order to avoid any unnecessary inconvenience, we recommend that you read through your warranty carefully before contacting your dealer or our authorized service department.

Your Warranty

THE VALVE hereby guarantees that the product will remain free from defects of materials and workmanship for a period of 2 (two) years from the date of purchase. In order to receive warranty service, you should provide proof of retail purchase. The tubes are not covered at all under the terms of this warranty, while the speakers are covered for a period of 90 days from the date of purchase.

- 1) This warranty will be considered valid only when the original invoice or sales receipt (indicating the date of purchase, product type and dealer's name) is presented together with the defective product.
- 2) The cost of transporting the product to the service center will not be covered unless specifically stated otherwise in this warranty.
- 3) This warranty does not cover:
 - a) adjustments to customer-operated controls as shown in the model's instruction manual, or products that have been altered or replaced, or products on which the serial number has been removed or is illegible.
 - b) the physical appearance of accessory items including, but not limited to, cabinet parts and knobs.
 - c) the unpacking, setting-up, installation or removal and reinstallation of products under repair.
 - d) any loudspeaker drivers that have been damaged due to exposure to excessive heat, or physical damage such as moisture, rips, tears, shock or transportation.
 - e) repairs or replacements necessitated by any cause beyond the control of THE VALVE, including, but not limited to, modifications or adjustments made to the product without authorization, such as the use of damaged or broken tubes, incorrect line voltage, inadequate maintenance, modification or repair by the user, abuse, misuse, neglect, accident, fire, or any other cause beyond the control of THE VALVE.

4) Warranty service is only available by contacting an Authorized Repair Service or by returning the unit to THE VALVE or to a distributor with prior authorization. The Valve Amplifiers will not accept any goods that have been returned without authorization. If your product is still under warranty, you must contact (in writing) the distributor or dealer where you purchased the product and, once the dealer gives you authorization for the goods to be returned, THE VALVE will organize shipping and pay the costs directly.

For any info, please call:

THE VALVE AMPLIFIERS

Ph: +39 51 6258433

Fax: +39 51 6257784

Email: servicing@the-valve.com

DISCLAIMER

Some countries, states, and provinces do not allow the exclusion or limitation of implied warranties or the limitation of incidental or consequential damages for certain products supplied to consumers, or the limitation of liability for personal injury, so the above limitations and exclusions may be limited in the extent to which they apply to you. When the implied warranties are not allowed to be excluded in their entirety, they will be limited to the duration of the applicable written warranty. This warranty gives you specific legal rights that may vary depending on local law. If you have any questions about this warranty or service received or if you need assistance in locating an Authorized Service Center, please contact:

THE VALVE

Engineered by:

TBE S.r.l.

Via della Tecnica 51/b

40068 San Lazzaro di Savena (Bo)

Italy

Specifications

Input impedance: 500K

Output impedance: selectable, 4/8/16 ohms

Effects Loop Send Output impedance: 280K

Effects Loop Return Input impedance: 10K min

Preamp tubes: 6 x Sovtek 12AX7WA (V1, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6)

Output tubes: 4 x Svetlana selected EL-34 matched sets (V7, V8, V9, V10)

Tube voltage: 450 volts DC

THD: 1,5%

Operating voltage: please see label on rear panel

Fuses: please see label on rear panel

Important: replace fuses only against same type and rating

Power consumption: 320VA

MIDI Control:

Channel 1 Select

Channel 2 Select

Channel 3 Select

Boost 1 ON-OFF

Boost 2 ON-OFF

Boost 3 ON-OFF

Shaping function on lead channel

Cabinet material: 18mm. thick Birch Plywood

Rated power: approx: 120 watts at 4, 8 or 16 ohms;

Dimensions: approx: 64 cm x 26 cm x 24,5 cm (w x d x h)

Weight: approx: 20 kg

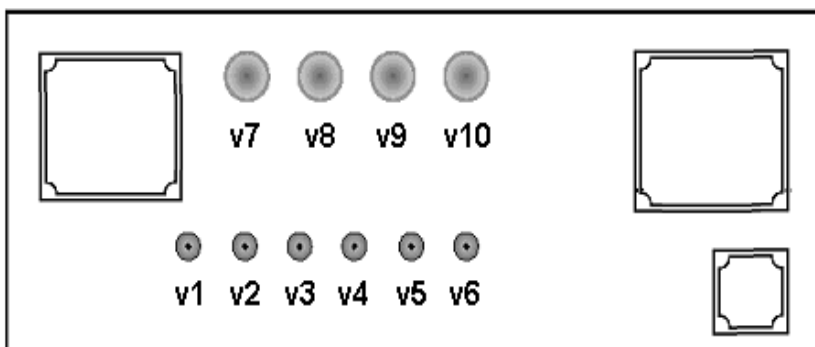
Operating temperature range: 0° to 40°

Storage temperature range: -10° to 60°

Storage average relative humidity range: 10/90%

Operating average relative humidity range: 30/80%

Tubes Layout



DICHIARAZIONE DI CONFORMITA' DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

Nome del fabbricante: <i>Manufacturer's name:</i>	
Indirizzo: <i>Manufacturer's address:</i>	Via della Tecnica 51/b 40068 S.Lazzaro di Savena - BOLOGNA ITALY
Distribuito da: <i>Distributed by:</i>	 Via della Tecnica 51/b 40068 S.Lazzaro di Savena - BOLOGNA ITALY
dichiara che il seguente prodotto: <i>declares that this product</i>	
Modello <i>Model:</i>	TESTATA 3/100
funzione specifica: <i>specific function:</i>	Amplificatore per chitarra elettrica da 100 WattS 3 canali <i>(100 Watts 3 channels Guitar Amplifier)</i>
è conforme ai requisiti essenziali delle Direttive Comunitarie 73/23/CEE, 93/68/CEE e successive, relative alla Sicurezza Elettrica e alla 89/336/CEE e successive, relativa alla Compatibilità Elettromagnetica, in riferimento alle seguenti normative armonizzate applicate: <i>is conform to essential requirement according to ECC Directive, in reference to following standard</i>	
CEI EN 55103-1 (1998) Compatibilità elettromagnetica - Norme di famiglie di prodotto per apparecchi audio, video, audiovisivi e di comando di luci da intrattenimento per uso professionale Parte 1: Emissione	
CEI EN 55103-2 (1998) Compatibilità elettromagnetica - Norme di famiglie di prodotto per apparecchi audio, video, audiovisivi e di comando di luci da intrattenimento per uso professionale Parte 1: Immunità	
CEI EN 60065 (2004) Apparecchi audio, video ed apparecchi elettronici similari - Requisiti di sicurezza	
Bologna, Dicembre 2004	
	Firma ..del Legale Rappresentante, distributore, importatore. RQ (<i>Quality Manager</i>)  Mr. Moretti Maurizio



FINE
TUNE
YOUR
TONE

Engineered by:

TBE S.r.l.

Via della Tecnica 51/b

40068 San Lazzaro di Savena (Bo)

Italy

Ph: +39 51 6258433 - Fax: +39 51 6257784

Email: info@the-valve.com - Web: <http://www.the-valve.com>