A G M

Ashdown Guitar Magnifire

AGM - USER GUIDE

Ashdown Engineering

THANK YOU!

FOR PURCHASING
YOUR NEW GUITAR AMP

PLEASE BE SURE TO REGISTER YOUR PURCHASE
ONLINE @

WWW.ASHDOWNMUSIC.COM

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IMPORTANT SAFTEY INFORMATION

PLEASE READ BEFORE USING THE AMPLIFIER

This product has been manufactured according to strict specifications and voltage requirements that are applicable in the country for which it is intended that this product should be used. If you have purchased this product via the internet, through mail order or via a telephone sale you must verify that this product is intended to be used in the country in which you reside. The intended country of use is stated via a label affixed to the REAR panel of the amplifier.

WARNING

The use of this product in any other country other than that for which it has been designed could be dangerous and invalidate the manufactures or distributors WARRANTY. Please also retain your receipt as proof of purchase otherwise your product may be disqualified from the manufactures or distributors warranty.

GENERAL NOTES

Valve amplifiers require care and attention to get best results and reliable operation, follow these simple rules and you should get years of faithfull service.

- Take care when setting the amplifier up, especially the routing of the signal leads (ie instrument FX leads etc) try to keep these away from the speaker to avoid unwanted noise
- At high gain and volume levels you will need to stand further away from the amplifier to avoid unwanted noise and feed back
- With single coil type picks hum can be a problem, either from being stood to close to the amplifier or from the room itself, typical sources of hum are power supplies, computers, low voltage halogen and fluorescent lighting, energy saving bulbs etc.
- Crackling noise can result from central heating and refrigerators, worth remembering if you get annoying pops etc. when you are trying to record at home.
- Moblie phones can cause some interesting noises and interference especially if placed on top of the amplifier or in your pocket.

BE SAFE:

- Keep the amplifier dry and don't stand drinks or other containers of liquids on it.
- Store the amplifier somewhere dry, away from condensation etc.
- When using the amplifier don't cover the ventilation holes or use it next to a radiator etc.
- Always use good quality leads for connecting the instrument and speaker to the amplifier.
- Check the mains cables from time to time replace if damaged in any way.
- Have the amplifier serviced at least once a year especially if you gig on a regular basis, Valves are fragile and usually fail due to rough handling and vibration, combos use more valves than heads as a rule due to the valves being in the same cabinet as the speaker. Many crackling noises are a direct result of a failing valve.

The Full set of Safety instructions can be found in the back of this user manual together with warranty information and a warranty registration card.

INPUTS
The AGM range features 1/4" jack sockets which are be used to connect the output from your guitar to the amplifier Always use a high quality guitar lead to ensure a reliable connection, the integrity of your signal, and the minimising of noise.

On some models there are two inputs , where fitted these have different tunings to give either a bright classic brit crunch as the base tone or a heavy thick American tone Single inputs are voiced to accommodate all tones .

AUX INPUT
Where fitted the Aux input is accessed through either a 3.5mm Mini jack or ¼" socket and is designed to be driven by the output from a signal source such as an MP3 or Phone the level can be mixed with the guitar signal from the
Pre amp and the overall volume controlled with the Master control.

BOOST
Where fitted The Boost control is used add an extra gain boost and is controlled by the "Boost" control on the front panel. The function is placed ahead of the preamplifier so works in a similar way to a boost pedal.

GAIN CONTROLS
The Gain control or controls are used to vary the amount of signal passing through the pre amp. With the control set low you will be able to get clean tones (used in conjunction with the Master as described later). Increasing the gain allows more signal to pass through the preamp, causing the amplifier to overdrive and distort.

MUTE CONTROL
Where fitted the mute switch simply mutes the output of the amplifier so instrument changing can be accomplished
in silence.

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS:

BASS, MIDDLE, TREBLE, PRESENCE (WHERE FITTED)
This is the equalisation part of the amplifier, and these controls shape the overall response of the amplifier. Balancing these controls can provide you with a large range of tones from which to work. All the controls are interactive (moving one will alter the way the others function) and you should spend some time experimenting to find out what's available.

On some models there is an EQ button fitted, this changes the values in the equalisation circuit from a typical British style EQ to a typical American style EQ.

REVERB
Where fitted the Reverb control allows the user to vary the amount of reverberation applied to the signal before being fed to the power amplifier. Reverb is used to add "space " around the sound and enhances the tone of the amplifier.

MASTERS
The Master Volume controls the final amount of signal that is fed to the power amp and therefore the overall volume of the amplifier. The Master works in conjunction with the Gain control as follows. For clean tones the Master needs to be fully up, controlling the overall volume with the Gain control. For distortion tones at controllable levels, turn the Master down and the Gain up. Varying the Gain will control the amount of distortion and the Master will control the overall level of the sound. Some models have dual master volumes that work in conjunction with the gain controls it therefore follows that master 1 will be used with gain 1 and so on

EFFECTS LOOP (WHERE FITTED)
The FX sockets on the front or rear panel are 1/4" jack connectors which accommodate both the Signal send to the effects pedal or rack, and the Return back from the effects unit to the amplifier. It is therefore necessary to use either a stereo cable terminated in two mono 1/4" jack plugs at one end (which connects to the FX sockets on the amplifier) and a pair of mono 1/4" jack plugs at the other (which connect to the input and output of the effects unit Or alternatively two mono jack to jack leads.

STEALTH SWITCH (WHERE FITTED)
The Stealth switch is located on the front the amplifier. When switched into Stealth mode, the output of the amplifier is reduced , enabling the full range of tones to be achieved at lower overall volume levels in recording applications.

CHANNEL/BOOST SWITCHING (WHERE FITTED)
The Channel and Boost manual switches are fitted either to the rear panel or front panel of the amplifier These functions are designed to be used and accessed via the connected footswitch, the manual switches are present mainly as a backup . note switches must be in the off position for the footswitch to function.

RECORDING OUT (WHERE FITTED)
The recording out jack where fitted has an electronically tailored frequency response designed to approximately replicate the response of a Celestion Alnico speaker fitted into an open back cabinet. This filter is all analogue and no digital electronics are used. The signal for this is derived from the output of the amplifier proper and therefore will contain all distortions and Equalisation dialled in by the user. This output can be used with the speaker connected or with the amplifier switched into headphone mode (see below)

PHONES OUT (WHERE FITTED)
The phones out is activated from the front panel with the speaker switch, in headphone mode the speaker is replaced with a resistive load for silent operation.
Volume is controlled with the Master volume in the usual way .

REAR PANEL SOCKETS
On ALL models there is the Mains inlet this is a IEC connector which Must have a Mains lead plugged into it, - this must be of an approved type and it MUST be the 3 WIRE GROUNDED type (see safety notes elsewhere in this manual).

Mains switch is also situated on the rear , this is used to turn the unit on and off between playing sessions, (disconnect from the mains supply if it is intended not to use the unit for several hours or days).

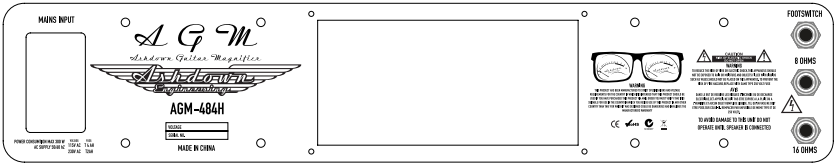
SPEAKER OUTPUTS
Speaker outputs are ¼" jack connectors either 8 Ohms or 16 Ohms (note that it is imperative you do not operate the unit without a speaker plugged in !)

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS:

NOTES:

Front Panel:

Rear Panel:



- Single channel Pre amplifier with boost mode and Boost master volume footswitch selectable
- 4 x JJ Electronics ECC83s preamplifier tubes
- 4 cascaded gain stages for classic clean tones through to full metal mayhem
- Extra gain and Clip switches
- Bass, middle, treble and presence controls
- Master volume control
- Series valve driven and recovered effects loop
- 30 Watts output from 4 x JJ Electronics EL84 valves
- Output meter shows average power output
- 8/16 Ohm speaker outputs for a variety of cabinet options
- Housed in a steel fan cooled enclosure

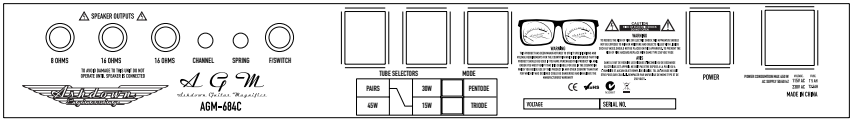
Front Panel:

Rear Panel:

- Dual channel Pre amplifier with overall boost mode all footswitch selectable
- 4 x JJ Electronics ECC83s preamplifier tubes
- 3 or 4 switch selectable cascaded gain stages for classic clean tones through to full metal mayhem
- Bass, middle, treble and presence controls
- Twin master volume controls
- Stealth switch reduces overall volume for studio use
- Tone switch changes the EQ from classic British to classic American
- Series valve driven and recovered effects loop
- 30 Watts output from 4 x JJ Electronics EL84 valves
- 8/16 Ohm speaker outputs for a variety of cabinet options
- Plywood Tolex covered classically styled cabinet

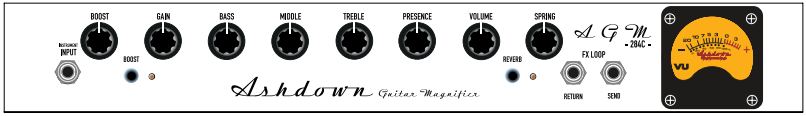
Front Panel:

Rear Panel:



- Full Dual channel Pre amplifier with individual Equalisation and channel volume controls- footswitch selectable
- Channel 2 features an additional Cascade control for high gain tones
- Dual voiced inputs and mute switch for silent instrument changes
- 4 x JJ Electronics ECC83s preamplifier tubes
- Bass, middle, treble controls for each channel
- Overall master volume control
- Genuine Accutronics Valve driven reverb spring Tank and level control
- Series valve driven and recovered effects loop with defeat switch
- Multi Mode Power amplifier with 6 power output levels Triode / pentode operation
- 45,30 and 15 watts output pentode mode
- 22,15 and 8 watts output in Triode mode
- 6 x JJ Electronics EL84 valves
- 8 and 16 Ohm speaker output for use with a different speaker cabinets
- Plywood Tolex covered classically styled cabinet fitted with Celestion Creamback speaker

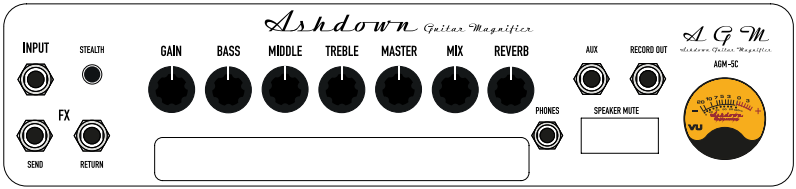
Front Panel:



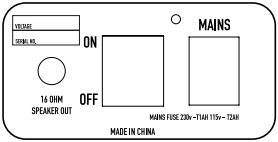
Rear Panel:

- Single channel Pre amplifier with Boost mode footswitch selectable
- 3 x JJ Electronics ECC83s preamplifier tubes
- Bass, middle, treble and Presence controls
- Master volume control
- Genuine Accutronics reverb block and level control
- Series effects loop
- Up to 15 Watts output from 2 x JJ Electronics EL84 valves
- 8 and16 Ohm speaker output for use with a different speaker cabinets
- Plywood Tolex covered classically styled cabinet fitted with Celestion Creamback speaker.

Front Panel:



Rear Panel:



- Single channel Pre amplifier with Genuine Accutronics reverb block
- 1 x JJ Electronics ECC83s preamplifier tube
- Bass, middle, treble and controls
- Twin master volume controls
- Stealth switch reduces overall volume and activates Speaker Tone compensation for studio use
- Series effects loop
- Aux input for backing tracks, MP3 etc.
- Speaker switch for silent made recording (activates headphone output)
- Recording out socket- filtered to simulate the response of a Celestion Alnico speaker
- Up to 5 Watts output from 1 x JJ Electronics EL84 valve
- 16 Ohm speaker output for use with a different speaker cabinet
- Plywood Tolex covered classically styled cabinet fitted with Celestion Creamback speaker.

WARRANTY

Your amplifier is covered by a Five Year warranty, against defects in materials and workmanship, for the original purchaser. Ashdown will, at their discretion, replace or repair any product or part thereof, which is found by Ashdown to be defective. This warranty shall not apply to the damage of covering, fittings or finishes when affected by carelessness, accident or extreme climate changes. Nor does it apply to normal wear and tear of parts such as valves, fuses, light bulbs, speakers, controls etc. In the unlikely event of any defect, please contact an authorised Ashdown dealer. All transport charges are to be pre-paid by the Owner. Unless your purchase is registered on-line, normal country warranty laws apply.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

This Ashdown amplifier has been designed to provide you with many years of faithful service – on the road, in a studio or in a domestic environment. By following the rules set out below, you will ensure that the unit functions safely. Valve (tube) instrument amplifiers contain very high voltages and fragile glass tubes and should therefore be handled with care. A number of important precautions which must be observed are set out below. If you are in any doubt about any aspect of the amplifier's operation, stop using it immediately and do not resume operation until the amplifier has been thoroughly inspected by a qualified technician.

1) STORAGE AND MOVING

When your amplifier is not in use make sure that the power cord is unplugged from the mains outlet, and that all leads are removed from the amplifier, including jack leads and footswitch leads. Jack socket connectors are self-cleaning, so the process of plugging in and unplugging the leads when not in use will ensure that the internal contacts will be cleaned when you plug in again. Store your amplifier in a warm, dry place away from moisture and condensation. A motor vehicle or cellar may look dry but condensation can form inside the unit causing short circuits and possible electric shock. If you suspect the amplifier may have become exposed to moisture, move it to a warm dry place and leave it to dry out for at least 48 hours before attempting to use it. Condensation can also occur when you move the amplifier from a hot humid place (such as a nightclub) to a cold place (like a motor vehicle). In such instances, always move the amplifier into a warm dry room to prevent damage. When moving the amplifier, handle it as carefully as you would your instruments. Although solidly built, an amplifier is easily damaged by shock, so be careful not to drop it or allow it to fall over. Use a protective cover to protect the finish and, if you are transporting it with other equipment, make sure that the amplifier is on a solid floor at the bottom of the pile. Amplifiers are heavy. Take care when lifting, always use the handles fitted to the amplifier to move it, and get help if you have to lift the amplifier to a greater height than you feel comfortable with. Never attempt to operate the amplifier after it has been dropped. Take it to a qualified technician and have it checked before using it again.

2) LEADS AND PLUGS

Your amplifier contains possibly lethal voltages and must therefore be connected to the mains using the correct power cord, which is a three terminal type with a ground connection. The power cord supplied with the unit should be of the correct type. If it does not fit your mains outlet consult your dealer or a qualified electrician for advice before attempting to use the amplifier. Never modify the power cord or attempt to use it with a two pin outlet. Store all your leads in a dry case and take care when packing them away. All leads, including guitar leads, are easily damaged with careless handling, so it is a good idea to carry a spare lead of every type you use. Flexible power cords get damaged very easily. At the first sign of damage, discard it and purchase a new one. Always replace the power cord with one of the same type. Moulded cords are the best choice with both plugs permanently fitted to the cord. When using your amplifier and other equipment it is a good idea to connect to the supply using a unit known as an R.C.D. These units are not expensive and offer the user additional protection against electric shock. An electrical shop should be able to supply you with a suitable unit.

3) BEFORE USE

Inspect your amplifier for damage before use. Check each lead for damage before you plug them in to the amplifier, and ensure that the loudspeaker is connected before you switch the amplifier on. Never try to operate the amplifier without the speaker connected. If you do, serious damage to the amplifier will result which will be very expensive to repair. Double check the connections you have made to your amplifier and make sure you have connected the speaker to the correct outlet socket that matches the cabinet you are using. The impedance of the speaker is important and is usually shown on a plate affixed to the back of the cabinet, so if the cabinet is 16R (Ohms) then you plug into the 16R outlet on the amplifier.

4) USING THE AMPLIFIER

When you set the amplifier up for use, it is important that you adhere to the following rules: Place the amplifier away from sources of heat, including radiators, etc. The amplifier itself will get hot in normal use. Make sure that all the grilles on the amplifier are not obstructed in any way so that cooling air can circulate through the amplifier. Do not place anything on or behind the amplifier that might restrict the flow of air. This includes items of clothing, or other equipment. Do not place the amplifier in such a position where it may get splashed with liquid or water, e.g. near tables of drinks or near equipment that contains water, e.g. smoke and bubble machines. Never stand bottles or containers of liquid on the amplifier. If any liquid is accidentally spilled into the amplifier, unplug it from the mains supply immediately and take the amplifier to a qualified technician for inspection. Do not place objects on the amplifier that could fall inside and cause a malfunction, e.g. coins, tools, etc.

5) SOUND LEVEL

The level of sound or 'volume' you choose to use will mainly be dependent on the size of the room you are playing in and you should use the volume level that gives you the desired results. Always operate the amplifier at the lowest level you can in any given situation. Each room will have a sweet spot. Play at too low a level and the instrument will not react with the amplifier, too high and the instrument will be unplayable. In all cases you should use a level that you feel comfortable with. The Human ear is a very sensitive instrument and can easily be permanently damaged by exposure to the high sound pressure levels that can be produced by this type of amplifier. Do not operate for prolonged periods of time at high volume without suitable ear protection, or at a level that causes you discomfort in any way. If you experience any hearing loss or ringing in the ears you should consult a doctor or audiologist.

6) FUSES AND RATINGS

Your amplifier is fitted with several fuses to protect yourself and the expensive electronics inside from damage in the event of a malfunction within the amplifier. The size and rating of the fuses has been calculated to offer the most protection from damage possible. Various circumstances can lead to fuse failure. It is recommended that you familiarise yourself with the type and rating of the individual fuses fitted to your amplifier and carry spare fuses clearly marked with you as replacements. Occasionally a fuse will fail as a result of a power surge in the supply or as a result of incorrect connection of the loudspeaker. It is permissible to replace the damaged fuse with one of the same type and rating as stated on the rear panel of the amplifier, having first unplugged the amplifier from the mains supply and allowed it to cool down. If the fuse keeps blowing this indicates that there is a more serious fault within the amplifier such as a damaged tube. In this event you must take the amplifier to a qualified technician for repair. Never fit a fuse larger than the recommended rating. The fuses fitted to you amplifier are 'Anti Surge' or 'Slow Blow' or 'Time delay' type fuses, and have the prefix T or H in the part number. So, for example, a 5 Amp fuse would be T 5A H. The exact rating for each particular fuse can be found next to the holder in which that fuse fits. If you are not sure what to buy when purchasing replacements,

7) WARNINGS USED ON THIS EQUIPMENT

The exclamation mark contained within a triangle is intended to alert the user to important operating and servicing instructions contained in the literature accompanying this product.
Marking here

The lightning flash within a triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of un-insulated dangerous voltage within the product enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock.
Marking here

This highlights the presence of dangerous voltages within the equipment enclosure. Never try to operate the unit out of the enclosure.

8) GROUNDING INSTRUCTIONS

This product must be grounded (earthed). If it should malfunction or break down the grounding provides the path of least resistance for the electric current, to reduce the risk of electric shock. This product is equipped with a power cord which contains a grounding conductor and a grounding plug. The plug must be plugged into a compatible mains outlet that is properly installed and grounded in accordance with the local electrical safety codes applicable to your country.

DANGER!!

Improper connection of the grounding conductor can result in the possibility of an electric shock. If you are in any doubt about the ground connection check with a qualified electrician before using this product. NEVER modify the mains power cord. Have a suitable mains outlet fitted!
The wires contained within the supplied power cord are colour coded as follows:
GREEN & YELLOW – GROUND OR EARTH CONDUCTOR
BROWN – LIVE CONDUCTOR
BLUE – NEUTRAL CONDUCTOR

9) OTHER MARKINGS

Other markings appear on the rear panel of the amplifiers as follows: back of the amplifier has some other markings on it as follows;
The CE mark attached to these products means it conforms to EMC(89/69/EEC) ,(93/68/EEC) and LDV(72/23/EEC).
Marking here

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