

FOREWORD

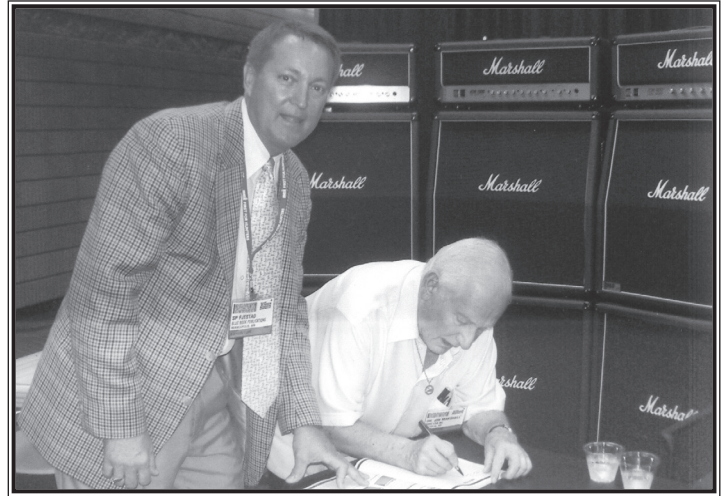
Welcome to the 5th Edition *Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers*, now with 840 pages. You can be assured that no guitar amplifier book/database on this planet has more information and up-to-date values!

Since it's been six years since the 4th Edition was published, a lot of things have changed. The biggest change is that my nephew, Zachary, has opted out of further amplifier research and providing content. He developed this database from scratch starting in 2003, and the 1st Edition of the *Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers* was published in October of 2004. While in Kansas City for a gun show in late July of last year, noted luthier, Jimmy Triggs came to the show to discuss the design and manufacture of a "guntar", an instrument that when completed will look and play like a guitar, but shoot like a gun (more news about this in the future). I mentioned to him that Zach was no longer involved with the database, and he looked at me and said, "How about Ryan?" his son, who was working full time at Triggs Guitars making both electric/acoustic guitars and mandolins. "Do you think he would be interested?" was my caught off guard response. So the three of us put our heads together and made a deal where Ryan would work on amplifier research and data entry approximately 25 hours a week, and spend the rest hand building fretted instruments.

Looking back, all of us were fortunate to take advantage of this unique situation, and this is a bigger, better book because of Ryan's involvement. Being a musician/guitarist, song writer, and luthier with an unusual set of credentials made him the perfect job candidate because he was already familiar with the technical aspects and technology unique to guitar amplifiers. While no doubt it was a daunting task to reel in six years worth of information/updates, this is proof that he did an amazing job!

So What's Changed During the Last Six Years?

- Many companies/manufacturers who were concentrating their focus on modeling amplifiers at the beginning of this decade have now moved on to making reissues of their most popular (and now spendy) amps from the 1950s and '60s. One of the biggest reasons for bringing back reissues is that the originals have gotten so expensive that offering these reissues makes them more affordable to the consumer. The jury is still out on how long this portion of the marketplace might last, however.
- Most of the guitar-playing baby boomers are now senior citizens who due to back problems, knee/hip replacements, and other medical issues are no longer strong enough to man handle the 40+ lb. Super Reverb and Marshall Twin Stacks of yesteryear. Accordingly, values on these older larger vintage amplifiers are down considerably, and this book addresses this trend. Also, today's newer crop of guitar players also prefers smaller amplifiers that are a lot more affordable, portable, and still strong on tone.
- Chinese/Pacific Rim manufactured amps from major companies are now the norm, and are in their third generation of manufacturing development. Twenty years from now, it will be interesting if any collectors and/or musicians will pay a premium for U.S. manufactured major trademark makes/models. In the guitar marketplace, this separation has already occurred.



The legendary Jim Marshall during a past Nashville NAMM show signing a 1st Edition *Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers* for the publisher. Jim will long be remembered for his "iron-man" performances on signing and personalizing Marshall t-shirts during NAMM shows. He once told me that he autographed 1,000 t-shirts in two days!

Now I Have to Thank Some Folks Besides the Editor!

This title certainly would've never had the popularity and success without the dedication and non-stop research by my nephew Zachary. Also, I didn't find out until this edition how much work and effort Kelsey (niece) put in to making it the best publication possible. Once again, Clint Schmidt has done a fantastic job in the design and layout – no easy job when there are over 3,650 images that have to be manually placed within the manuscript. Lisa Beuning, long-term BBP data entry and proofing specialist, once again got involved in both the final editing and proofing guaranteeing this newest edition is as error-free as possible. Another well-deserved gracci goes to Sarah Peterson for her proofing contributions. A huge thanks to all the contributing editors and people/companies who have provided us with either information or images and have helped immensely with this project over the years (see Acknowledgements section).

In closing, don't forget that this entire database is available as an online subscription, now updated monthly - please visit www.bluebookofguitarvalues.com for more information and sample pages. Finally, thanks to you, the consumer for all your help and support in this project. We will continue to provide you with the most up-to-date information and accurate pricing for both new and vintage guitar amplifiers.

Sincerely,

S.P. Fjestad
Publisher
Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers