


# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 5th Edition *Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers*! Since this is the first title I've worked on for Blue Book Publications, Inc. I figured I should give you a little background about myself. I've been surrounded by musical instruments and gear my whole life. I grew up sweeping sawdust in my father Jim's workshop. You may be familiar with Jim from his tenure at the Gibson Guitar Corporation or seen one of the 700 guitars or mandolins he's handmade over the past 25 years. I've been helping him create custom stringed instruments for the last 15 years and I also spend a lot of time writing songs and playing live gigs in the Kansas City area. In 2015, the opportunity to take over as the Editor for the Guitar and Amps Division at Blue Book Publications, Inc. presented itself and I jumped at the chance. There will always be room for more music related work in my life.

While the scope of this publication is still the same as previous editions in offering you the most information and up-to-date values on new and used guitar and bass amplifiers, over time, we've made some changes to the book; I think you'll agree for the better. We now have over 3,500 amplifier images within our database, and it is just not possible to include every picture within the pages of the book. We've included several black and white images – mostly of “popular” or brand new models – but you can find all of our images in full color on our website for free. Within the text, you'll notice a  that indicates one or more images of that model are available for viewing on our website. This can all be viewed in our Online Subscriptions on our website. If we don't embrace technology, we'll be left behind, besides, don't many of you look for guitars and guitar amplifiers online anyway? We have also included the Trademark Index contact information directly in the listing for most current manufacturers, eliminating cumbersome page flipping. This is the most complete and easiest-to-use *Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers* yet!

It has been six years since the last printed version of the *Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers* was published, but that doesn't mean it hasn't been worked on since then. Since this entire book is available for sale on our website as an Online Subscription that is updated quarterly, I'm constantly updating, editing, and adding to the database. This includes adding new models released each year, updating vintage guitar amp values, and fixing sections that may be wrong or need clarification. Some readers may be surprised that our sales are split nearly 50/50 today between selling books and online subscriptions. What this tells me is that our readers want their information and values the most-up-to-date as possible and wherever they go. We've offered Online Subscriptions for many years now, but we also have a website designed specifically for mobile devices. Using your web browser on your mobile device, you can view your Online Subscriptions anywhere you go. Also, don't forget that you can inventory your entire guitar and amp collection using Gear Tracker, a free service with the purchase of our Online Subscription that you use through our website that includes automatic value and information updates. Check our website at [www.BlueBookofGuitarValues.com](http://www.BlueBookofGuitarValues.com) for more information.

One of the biggest changes in the amp industry since the 4th Edition was published is the growing popularity of smaller amplifiers. Gone are the days of needing a full stack to be considered a serious guitar player. The majority of today's musicians are looking for portability, functionality, and versatility in a lightweight amp at a reasonable price point. In addition, many current live music venues have invested in high quality PA systems that don't require guitarists to load in 100-watt tube heads with accompanying speaker cabinets. If you play in smaller clubs or listening rooms, it's likely that you can mic your amp or run direct to a stage console. With all those things considered, even a micro or “lunchbox” size amplifier would be adequate for most situations these days.

Since I began working on the 5th Edition I've focused on entering new models for the larger manufacturers, expanding the image database, and updating the values of many popular vintage models. My next goal as editor is to spend more time updating the entries for our boutique manufacturers. It can be a little more difficult to track down a list of their current models with pricing information or determine their used values, but boutique builders are a growing segment in the amplifier industry and I believe it's important to have their listings as up-to-date



as possible. As previously mentioned, this book is also available on our website, so you'll be able to see these updates as they take place if you take advantage of our Online Subscriptions.

As always, we want to hear from you! Whether it is positive or negative feedback, we want to know how we're doing (please be constructive in your criticism). Remember, if something is wrong or missing within these pages, we won't know about it if you don't tell us! A simple email can not only answer your question, but it also allows me to add it to the database so others will benefit as well.

I'd like to thank the following people for their assistance with this book: Zachary R. Fjestad, the previous author, for creating and maintaining such an incredible resource for the amplifier community over the last 14 years, trusting me enough to take the reins of the guitar and amplifier books, giving me an immeasurable amount of advice on how to do my job, and providing a substantial amount of the information in this Introduction; Jim Triggs, my father, for being so flexible with my schedule and allowing me the countless hours every week to work on the 5th Edition even though it slowed down our production at Triggs Guitars; Jessica Triggs, my wife, for being Supermom to our two beautiful daughters while I've been updating the amplifier database nearly every night and weekend for the last year; Rick Wilkiewicz for his guidance on updating vintage amp pricing; Clint H. Schmidt, our production manager and art director, for taking an incredible amount of data and thousands of images and turning it into something so beautiful; Sarah Peterson and Lisa Beuning for proofing this book from cover to cover and reminding me why I never excelled in literature class; Tom, Adam, Karl, Beth, Shauna and the rest of the Blue Book team that has helped me out along the way; and S.P. Fjestad for the opportunity to work for Blue Book Publications, Inc. and believing that I could handle this project and the tremendous amount of responsibility that comes along with it. There are also many contributing editors and other people who make this book what it is and I couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,

Ryan Triggs

Editor

*Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers*