

GUITAR AMP REFERENCES/ RECOMMENDED READING

GENERAL GUITAR AMPLIFIER BOOKS

The Amp Book - A Guitarist's Introductory Guide to Tube Amplifiers, Brosnac, Donald, 64 pages, Westport, CT, The Bold Strummer, Ltd., 1987. This is a very early book about tubes, and as far as I can tell one of the first. The Amp Book contains sections about history, construction, speakers, how to use, and information about several amp manufacturers.

AMPS! The Other Half of Rock 'n' Roll, Fliegler, Ritchie, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 1993. Fliegler writes one of the first books with both tube and solid-state designs. Several amp companies are identified including Fender, Vox, Ampeg, and Marshall as well as many manufacturers who hadn't had a lot of ink prior including Mesa/Boogie, HiWatt, Orange, Matchless, Soldano, Rivera, and Sunn. Ritchie also covers several transistor "dinosaurs" from the early days including Kustom, Acoustic, and the Rickenbacker Transonic.

The Art of the Amplifier, Doyle, Michael, 80 pages, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 1996. More of a picture book than anything else, *The Art of the Amplifier* is printed entirely in color with little text. Doyle covers over 20 guitar amplifier manufacturers including Dumble, Conrad-Johnson, McIntosh, and Olympus III. This book pays tribute to amplifier pioneers and innovators.

Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers, 5th edition, 840 pages, 2016, Minneapolis, MN, Blue Book Publications, Inc. What good is an old edition once a new one is released? As far as information, nothing. However, if you are interested in how values have changed (up or down) you can compare values between the current edition and older editions. Historic pricing can also be tracked through our online subscriptions back to 2005. Visit our website for more information.

The Bonehead's Guide To Amps (Guitar World Presents), Hilton, Dominic, 80 pages, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 1999. Just like the "Idiot's Guide to (insert subject here)," the Bonehead's Guide To Amps can speak to all levels of people including novices and pros. Without too much technical jargon and unknown terms, the Bonehead's Guide is very easy to follow, especially for somebody who is just learning about guitar amplifiers.

The Complete Guide to Guitar and Amp Maintenance, A Practical Manual for Every Guitar Player, Fliegler, Richie, 80 pages, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 1994. Fliegler, author of *AMPS!*, provides a complete illustrated manual for the guitar and guitar amplifier user. In the guitar amplifier section, Fliegler covers troubleshooting, capacitors, tube bias, wattage, fuses, solid-state amps (briefly), and speakers/speaker cabinets. Unlike many tube amp books, this one contains several black and white images, which are very helpful for the do-it-yourselfer.

Dave Funk's Tube Amp Workbook, Complete Guide to Vintage Tube Amplifiers Volume 1 - Fender, Funk, Dave, 422 pages, Waukegan, IL Thunderfunk Labs, Inc. 1996. Fender junkies, this book is for you. Funk's workbook contains everything you need to know about tube amplifiers, especially about Fender. Over 250 schematics are included as well.

A Desktop Reference of Hip Vintage Guitar Amps, Weber, Gerald, 512 pages, Pflugerville, TX, Kendrick Books, 1994. This book is a compilation of all the articles Gerald Weber wrote for *Vintage Guitar* up to the time of publication in 1994. Anybody who has heard of Weber or Kendrick knows how much this guy is involved in amps. Topics include popular guitar amplifiers, mods for your amplifier, and tube schematics.

Inside Tube Amps, The Book on Tube Amps Technology, Torres, Dan, 310 pages, San Mateo, CA, Sparpco, Inc., 1995. Torres provides the reader with all the information about tube amplifiers you may ever need. The last part of his book gives a step-by-step process on how to build your own tube amp. Torres also writes with a sense of humor and on a level most people enjoy.

The Tube Amp Book, Deluxe Revised Edition, Pittman, Aspen, 188 pages plus a CD-ROM, San Francisco, CA, Backbeat Books, 2003. Aspen may be the best tube amp guy out there, and for those who disagree with me, think about the information he provides that many others don't take the time to do! Pittman founded GT Electronics, builds some of the only American-made tubes, and publishes a book on the side! The Deluxe Revised Edition of the Tube Amp Book is actually the sixth edition, but Pittman went above and beyond with this book. It contains history on over fifty tube amp manufacturers, amp mods, tube reference, and tube schematics. Since paper is expensive and publishing endless pages on schematics doesn't make much sense, Aspen provides hundreds of schematics in .pdf form on a CD-ROM!

INDIVIDUAL GUITAR AMPLIFIER MANUFACTURERS

Ampeg - The Story Behind the Sound, Hopkins, Gregg & Bill Moore, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 1999. This is the first comprehensive book on Ampeg guitar amplifiers, as well as all related accessories and off- brands. Hopkins and Moore present the history of Ampeg from start to present, a complete listing of models with specs and tube listings, and several pictures including a color section. This book also includes information on the Oliver brand.

The Burns Book, Day, Paul, Westport, CT, The Bold Strummer, Ltd., 1990. Many Burns amplifiers never ended up in the U.S.A., but the few that have often bring confusion to the consumer as he or she does not know what it is. The Burns Book gives a complete history of Burns guitars as well as amplifiers.

Epiphone - The Complete History, Carter, Walter, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 1995. Carter does a great job of outlining Epiphone with a complete history and several catalogs and price lists for model identification. Since the bulk of Epiphone amps are really Gibsons, very little information has been written. However, price lists in this book provide interesting information.

The Fender Amp Book, Morrish, John, 96 pages, San Francisco, CA, Miller Freeman Books, 1995. This book is similar in design to several of Tony Bacon and Paul Day's books on various guitars (see Gibson Les Paul, Rickenbacker, etc.). The first 2/3 of the book is an illustrated history of Fender amps in chronological order, and the last 1/3 is a complete reference section.

Fender Amps - The First Fifty Years, Teagle, John & John Sprung, 256 pages, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation (in cooperation with Fender), 1995. Just as the title suggests, this book features the first fifty years of Fender guitar amplifiers. The authors include a history of Fender, dating information, and a color section helpful in identifying Fender amps. The amp section, which composes most of the book, is organized by model name in chronological order.

The Soul of Tone - Celebrating 60 Years of Fender Amps, Wheeler, Tom, 512 pages, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 2007. This beautiful, full-color, hardcover book is the definitive history on Fender amplifiers from the beginning up through 2006. With a foreword by Keith Richards and several interviews, this book is a must-read for any Fender amp enthusiast. Wheeler focuses more on the history instead of technical reference information, and the pictures are outstanding.

Gibson Amplifiers 1933-2008 - 75 Years of the Gold Tone, Marx, Wallace Jr., Minneapolis, MN, Blue Book Publications, 2008. Blue Book Publications was thrilled to publish the first book solely on Gibson amplifiers. Author Marx chronicles the entire history of Gibson amps back when guitar amplification was in its infant stages during the late 1920s and early 1930s all the way to Gibson's current Gold Tone amps. A reference section includes detailed information on all Gibson, Lab Series, and SG Systems amps as well as a CD-ROM including Gibson's Amplifier Master Service Book in PDF format! A 16-page full color section completes the one and only book on Gibson amps.

Gibson Shipment Totals 1937-1979, 192 pages, Meiners, Larry, Chicago, IL, Flying Vintage Publications, 2001. Meiners' book on Shipment Totals contains shipping dates for all Gibson Amplifiers produced between 1937 and 1979. It also includes shipping totals for Gibson's other instruments including guitars, basses, mandolins, and banjos. Currently out of print.

Gruhn's Guide to Vintage Guitars - An Identification Guide for American Fretted Instruments, 3rd Edition, Gruhn, George & Walter Carter, San Francisco, CA, Backbeat Books, 2010. Most collectors, dealers, and guitar enthusiasts (including me) have a copy of this book on their desk. Gruhn's book is considered to be the gospel to many people when it comes to identifying American made guitars and amplifiers, and most of the time I agree. As far as amplifiers, Gruhn only covers Fender and Gibson, but his book is best used as a cross reference as descriptions aren't as detailed as some people would like. The new 3rd Edition is organized much better as well for easy reference.

Guitars from Neptune, (Danelectro), Bechtoldt, Paul & Doug Tulloch, Backporch Publications, 1995. All you old timers thought no one would ever care enough about Danelectro to write a book - well you were wrong! Danelectros are becoming extremely collectible and Silvertones are also on the rise. Tulloch gives a basic outline of Danelectro instruments and provides several catalogs and price lists.

Guitar Stories Volume One, Wright, Michael, 312 pages, Bismarck, ND, Vintage Guitar Inc., 1995 and ***Guitar Stories Volume Two***, Wright, Michael, 262 pages, Bismarck, ND, Vintage Guitar Inc., 2000. Michael Wright has been writing for Vintage Guitar for several years now, and is one of the most accomplished writers I have ever read. I especially like these two books because they cover the oddball stuff. Let's face it, information about Fender, Marshall, Ampeg, and Vox amplifiers is not tough to come by. Kay, Alamo, Premier, and other brands of that caliber do not show up very readily, but these are all covered by Wright in his Guitar Stories. These books contain both histories and scanned catalogs that are helpful to identify amplifiers.

The High Performance Marshall Handbook, A Guide to Great Marshall Amplifier Sounds, Boehnlein, John "Dutch," 64 pages, Westport, CT, The Bold Strummer, Ltd., 1994. Just like cars, people enjoy modifying or "souping" their amplifier up to get more sound or gain out of it. This book describes and illustrates how to get the most sound out of your Marshall amplifier.

A History of Marshall Valve Guitar Amplifiers, The Sound of Rock, Doyle, Michael, 68 pages, Westport, CT, The Bold Strummer, Ltd., 1990. This is Doyle's first history of Marshall, which at the time was a very good book. There are several black and white photos and charts to help identify Marshall amps. However, the book he wrote three years later takes Marshall amplifiers to the next level.

The History of Marshall, The Illustrated Story of "The Sound of Rock," Doyle, Michael, 254 pages, Milwaukee, WI, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 1993. The first complete history of Marshall is a good one. Doyle includes a complete history, a complete model listing, and two color sections. The first color section is extremely helpful in identifying Marshall variations, colors, and grille cloths, and the second color section is composed of old catalogs, which is very helpful in identifying vintage Marshalls. Most individual Marshall listings in the Blue Book of Guitar Amplifiers were composed from Doyle's book.

Jim Marshall, The Father of Loud, Maloof, Rich, 256 pages, San Francisco, CA, Backbeat Books, 2004. Although all books written about Marshall Amplifiers are ultimately about Jim Marshall, this book is specifically written about him. This recent book contains many new images and text written by a different author than previous Marshall books. Several extras are included in this book such as dating Marshall amps, Jim Marshall's Top 11 (not 10) amplifiers, and testimonies from several big personalities.

The Marshall Bluesbreaker - The Story of Marshall's First Combo, Wiley, John R., 144 pages, Minneapolis, MN, Blue Book Publications, 2010. Several books exist on Jim Marshall and his amplifiers, but this is the first book about the most famous and collectible combo amp - the Marshall Bluesbreaker. Author John Wiley chronicles the entire history of the development of Marshall's JTM45 chassis into a combo guitar unit all the way to the reissues produced today. A complete guide reference section, 16-page color section, and a chapter describing how to convert a standard Bluesbreaker reissue into a Clapton-spec Bluesbreaker are all included!

Music Man 1978-1982 (and then some)!! The Other Side of the Story, Green, Frank W/M, 112 pages, Anaheim, CA, Centerstream Publishing, LLC, 2007. Music Man was mainly a three-person team including Leo Fender, Forrest White, and Tom Walker. This book is dedicated to Tom Walker and mainly covers the years between 1978 and 1982, and also covers the transition of Music Man to Ernie Ball. This is the only book on Music Man amps and guitars!

The PRS Guitar Book - A Complete History of Paul Reed Smith Guitars, Burrluck, Dave, updated edition, San Francisco, CA, Backbeat Books, 2002. A few of you may have heard of PRS amps and an even fewer number of you may remember PRS amps from the late 1980s and 1990s, but are these transistor dinosaurs actually mentioned in the PRS book? Absolutely! Burrluck writes about two paragraphs on the PRS models (which is plenty!) and covers everything you would want to know. The rest of the PRS book is pretty informative too!

Vox Amplifiers - The JMI Years, Elyea, Jim, 682 pages. It took Elyea over five years, but he has assembled the ultimate history on Vox amps from the Jennings Musical Instruments era. This 10 inch by 12 inch full-color hardcover sells for \$85, but for 682 pages of information and pictures, it seems well worth the price.

The Vox Story - A Complete History of the Legend, Petersen David & Dick Denney, 168 pages, Westport, CT, The Bold Strummer, Ltd., 1993. Without this book, many people would only know about the AC series by Vox and forget they produced hundreds of cool models during the 1960s and 1970s. The Vox Story provides a complete history of Vox, a complete listing of models, and history about Vox guitars. This is the one and only book for Vox guitar amplifiers.