

ROCKTRON

DESIGNED BY LACUSTOM



Valve Sonic

BLACK PLATE +

U S E R ' S M A N U A L



Your VALVESONIC Black Plate + has been tested and complies with the following Standards and Directives as set forth by the European Union:

Council Directive(s): 2014/30/EU
Standard(s): EN55032, EN55103-2

This means that this product has been designed to meet stringent guidelines on how much RF energy it can emit, and that it should be immune from other sources of interference when properly used. Improper use of this equipment could result in increased RF emissions, which may or may not interfere with other electronic products.

To insure against this possibility, always use good shielded cables for all audio input and output connections. Also, bundle audio cables separately from the AC power cables. These steps will help insure compliance with the Directive(s).

For more information about other Rocktron products, please see your local dealer or one of our importers closest to you (listed on the enclosed warranty sheet).

SPECIFICATIONS	
Input Impedance	1 M Ω
Input Jack	1/4" mono unbalanced (Front and Rear)
Output Impedance	Less than 50 k Ω (Line Output) Less than 2.7 k Ω (Instrument Output)
Output Jack	1/4 Mono Unbalanced (Line Out and Instrument Out)
Tube Type	12AX7EH
Power Consumption	20 Watts
Power Requirements	100 ~120VAC / 1.0A 220 ~ 240VAC / 0.5A
Dimensions	(W) 19" x (D) 6 1/2" x (H) 1 3/4" (W) 482.6mm x (D)165.1 mm x (H) 44.5mm
Weight	5.511 (lbs) 2.5K (kg)

OPERATING PRECAUTIONS

NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THIS SECTION TO PROVIDE YEARS OF TROUBLE FREE USE. THIS UNIT REQUIRES CAREFUL HANDLING.

All warnings on this equipment and in the operating instructions should be adhered to and all operating instructions should be followed.

Do not use this equipment near water. Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the unit through any openings.

The power cord should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SERVICE THIS EQUIPMENT. THIS EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE SERVICED BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL ONLY. DO NOT MAKE ANY INTERNAL ADJUSTMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO THIS EQUIPMENT AT ANY TIME. DO NOT TAMPER WITH INTERNAL ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AT ANY TIME. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY VOID THE WARRANTY OF THIS EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS CAUSING SHOCK HAZARD.

OPERATING TEMPERATURE

Do not expose this unit to excessive heat. This unit is designed to operate between 32° F and 104° F (0° C and 40° C). This unit may not function properly under extreme temperatures.

Introduction

Rocktron has partnered with LA Custom to produce the ValveSonic series of all tube guitar preamps with unprecedented sonic versatility. Tonal capabilities range from 1950's American, to 60's, 70's, 80's British, to modern American high gain. The ValveSonic have a unique four tube design with the flexibility to reproduce any musical style including classic rock, metal, pop, country, jazz and more.

Producing tones **only possible with tubes**, Rocktron and LA Custom deliver the goods with the **ValveSonic Black Plate + all tube guitar preamp!** Providing unprecedented sonic versatility with *another four-tube monster* in the ValveSonic series, the **Rocktron ValveSonic Black Plate +** model captures the tone of the iconic American combo known for its pristine clean sound and smooth overdrive when cranked up. We're talking 50's "Hybrid Tweed" to 60's classic "Black Plate" Panel. But this ValveSonic takes it even further providing the hot-rodded tones of the classic *California* amps. *All this with a single preamp!*

Features: The **Valvesonic Black Plate +** features a front panel input jack. The 1-2 switch affects the input of the tube stage in the preamp. When switched to "1", the unit provides the more modern "hot-rodded" type of input used on the classic "California" style amps. When switched to "2", the unit provides the classic type "Tweed" and "Black Face Panel" type "American" amps. The Tight switch is used in conjunction with the 1-2 switch; in the up position the input is "tightened up".

Bright Control: The ValveSonic BRIGHT control is a five position switch that provides four different bright variations to the overall tone found in classic American and "hot-rodded" California amplifiers, with 0 being off and 4 being the brightest.

Gain Control: The GAIN control is used to determine the amount of GAIN Input level driving the ValveSonic **tubes**. Boost can be obtained by flipping the Boost switch to the On position. The Boost works in conjunction with the "+" switch. When the Boost switch is On and the "+" switch is in the down position you will obtain an extra gain stage. When the "+" switch is Up, you obtain an additional gain stage and essentially add an entire tube to the front end, replicating the "hot-rodded" California style amps.

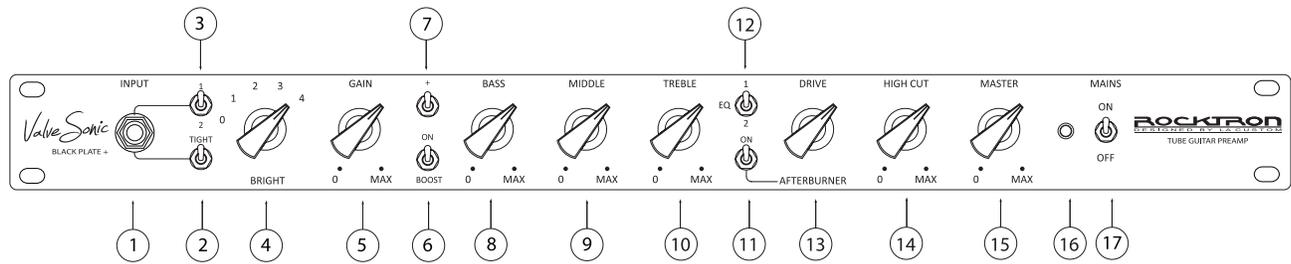
EQ: Bass, Middle and Treble controls determine the amount of these various frequencies present in the signal. The EQ 1 & 2 switch replicates the two different style EQs that were used in American amplifiers over the years. In the Up position, (position 1), the 50's "Tweed" EQ is replicated, providing a more modern midrange emphasis. In the Down position, (position 2), 60's "Black Plate Panel" EQ is replicated.

Afterburner: The ValveSonic series features a unique AFTERBURNER switch. This switch works in conjunction with the DRIVE control, providing yet another gain stage after the EQ section of the preamp. When the AFTERBURNER is turned On, this switch emulates a post phase inverter master. When On, you can utilize the Drive control to adjust the amount of Drive present in the AFTERBURNER stage.

High Cut Control: The ValveSonic also features HIGH CUT control to adjust the High Frequency cut in order to roll off some of the high end "sizzle" when the high gain is used. The Master control determines the output level of the preamp.

The ValveSonic family of tube preamps includes three additional models. **Available Now:** The **ValveSonic Plexi** captures the iconic British arena sound of rock. **Coming Soon:** The **ValveSonic Top Boost** preamp offers the sound of the famous vintage AC30 amp that delivers the classic "chime," bringing the classic tube tones from "*Beatles to Bohemian*" The **ValveSonic High Gain** model, where the name says it all, delivering the heaviest of tones in this tube preamp series.

Front Panel



1 INPUT jack:

This standard 1/4" mono jack provides an input to the VALVESON-IC from a guitar or other effect.

2 TIGHT Switch:

This switch effects the input of the tube stage in the preamp and is used in conjunction with the 1-2 Switch. When in the down position the "tight" function is not active. When in the UP position it "tightens" up the input.

3 1 - 2 Switch:

This switch also effects the input of the tube stage in the preamp

1 = Replicates the more "hot-rodded" type of input used on classic "California" style amps.

2 = Replicates a classic "Tweed and Black Face Panel" type of input found on "American" amps.

4 BRIGHT Control 0 - 4:

This switch is a 5 position switch that provides 4 different bright variations to the overall tone found in classic american and "hot-rodded" Californian amplifiers. 0 = off and 4 = the brightest.

5 GAIN control:

This control is used to determine the amount of GAIN Input level driving the tubes.

Front Panel...continued:

6 **BOOST Switch:**

This switch BOOSTS works in conjunction with the “+” switch. To Turn on the “Boost” function flip the switch to “ON”.

7 **“+” Switch:**

The Boost works in conjunction with the “+” switch. When the Boost switch is On and the “+” switch is in the down position you will obtain an extra gain stage. When the “+” switch is Up, you obtain an additional gain stage and essentially add an entire tube to the front end, replicating the “hot-rodded” California style amps.

8 **BASS control:**

This control is used to determine the amount of low frequency or Bass present in the signal.

9 **MIDDLE control:**

This control is used to determine the amount of mid frequency present in the signal.

10 **TREBLE control:**

This control is used to determine the amount of high frequency or Treble present in the signal

11 **AFTERBURNER Switch:**

This switch works in conjunction with the DRIVE control. After the EQ section is another gain stage. When the AFTERBURNER is turned “ON” this switch emulates a post phase inverter master. When on use the DRIVE control to adjust amount of DRIVE present in the AFTERBURNER stage.

Front Panel...continued:

12 **EQ 1&2 Switch:**

EQ 1 & 2 switch replicates the two different style EQs that were used in American amplifiers over the years. In the Up position, (position 1), the 50's "Tweed" EQ is replicated, providing a more modern mid-range emphasis. In the Down position, (position 2), 60's "Black Plate Panel" EQ is replicated.

13 **DRIVE control:**

This control works in conjunction with the AFTERBURNER switch. The DRIVE control determines the input level applied to the AFTERBURNER stage.

14 **HIGH CUT control:**

This control adjust the High frequency cut to roll off some of the high end "sizzle" when high gain is used.

15 **MASTER control:**

This control determines the overall output level of the unit

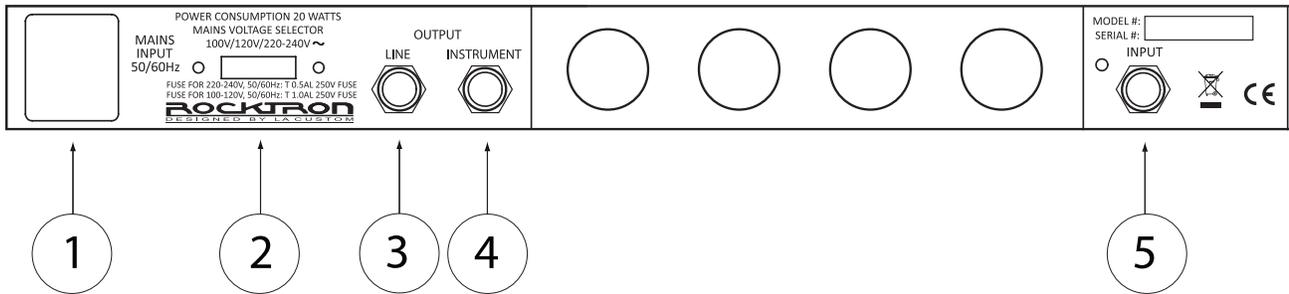
16 **POWER LED:**

When lit, the unit is "ON". When not lit, the unit is "OFF"

17 **MAINS Power Switch:**

Use this switch to turn "ON" and "OFF" the unit.

Back Panel



1 POWER “MAINS” INPUT Plug:

Use the supplied power cable to provide power to the ValveSonic. See point 2 to make sure you have set the proper voltage for the area of the world you are using the ValveSonic.

2 POWER 110V-240V SELECTOR Switch:

You must select the proper voltage to run the unit. Please check the specified voltage for your area and move the switch to that voltage before powering up the unit. Note that selecting the wrong voltage can damage the unit and void the warranty.

3 LINE OUTPUT jack:

This standard 1/4” mono jack provides a LINE LEVEL OUTPUT signal of the VALVESONIC, which can be fed to an amplifier or other effects.

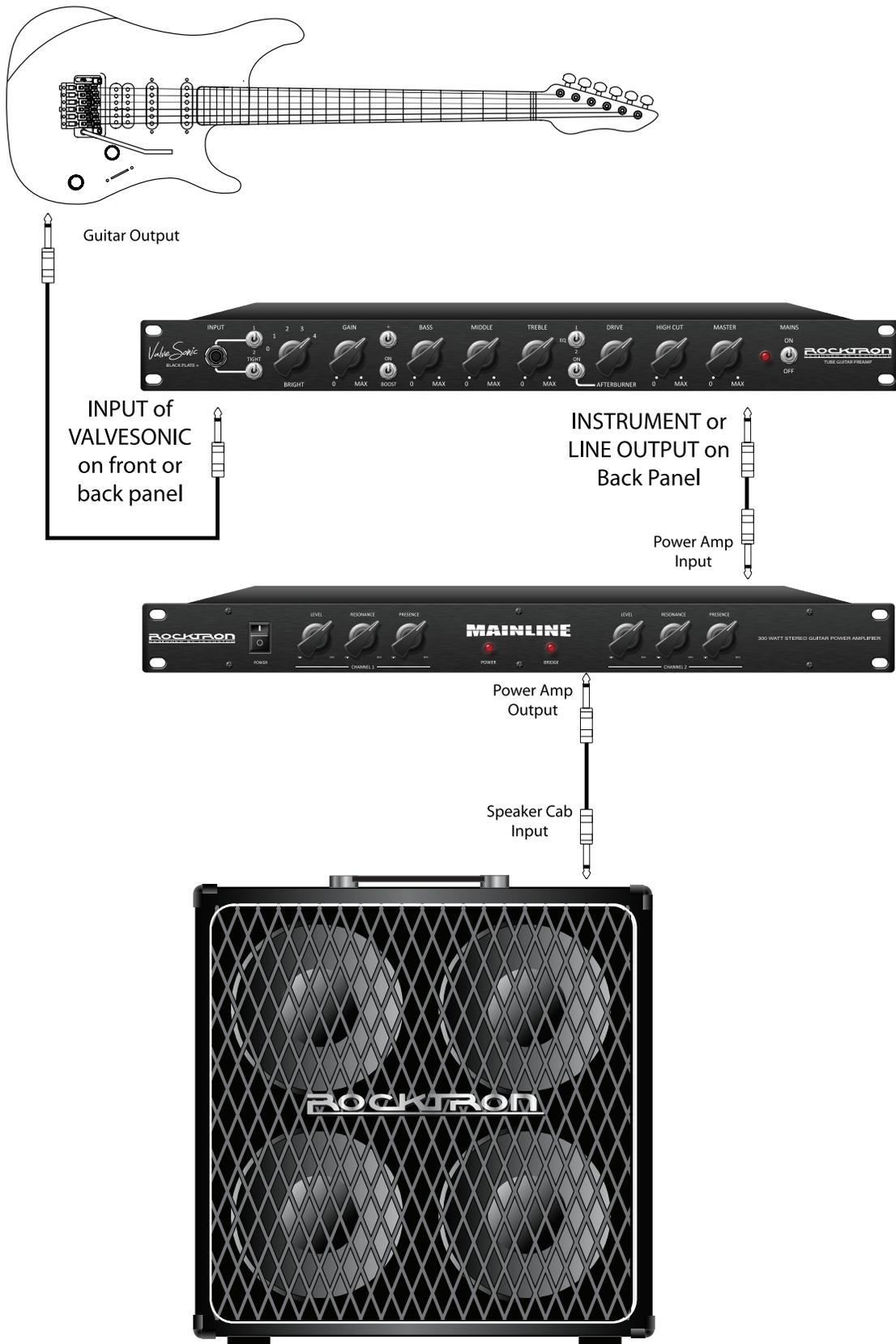
4 INSTRUMENT OUTPUT jack:

This standard 1/4” mono jack provides a INSTRUMENT LEVEL OUTPUT signal of the VALVESONIC, which can be fed to an amplifier or other effects.

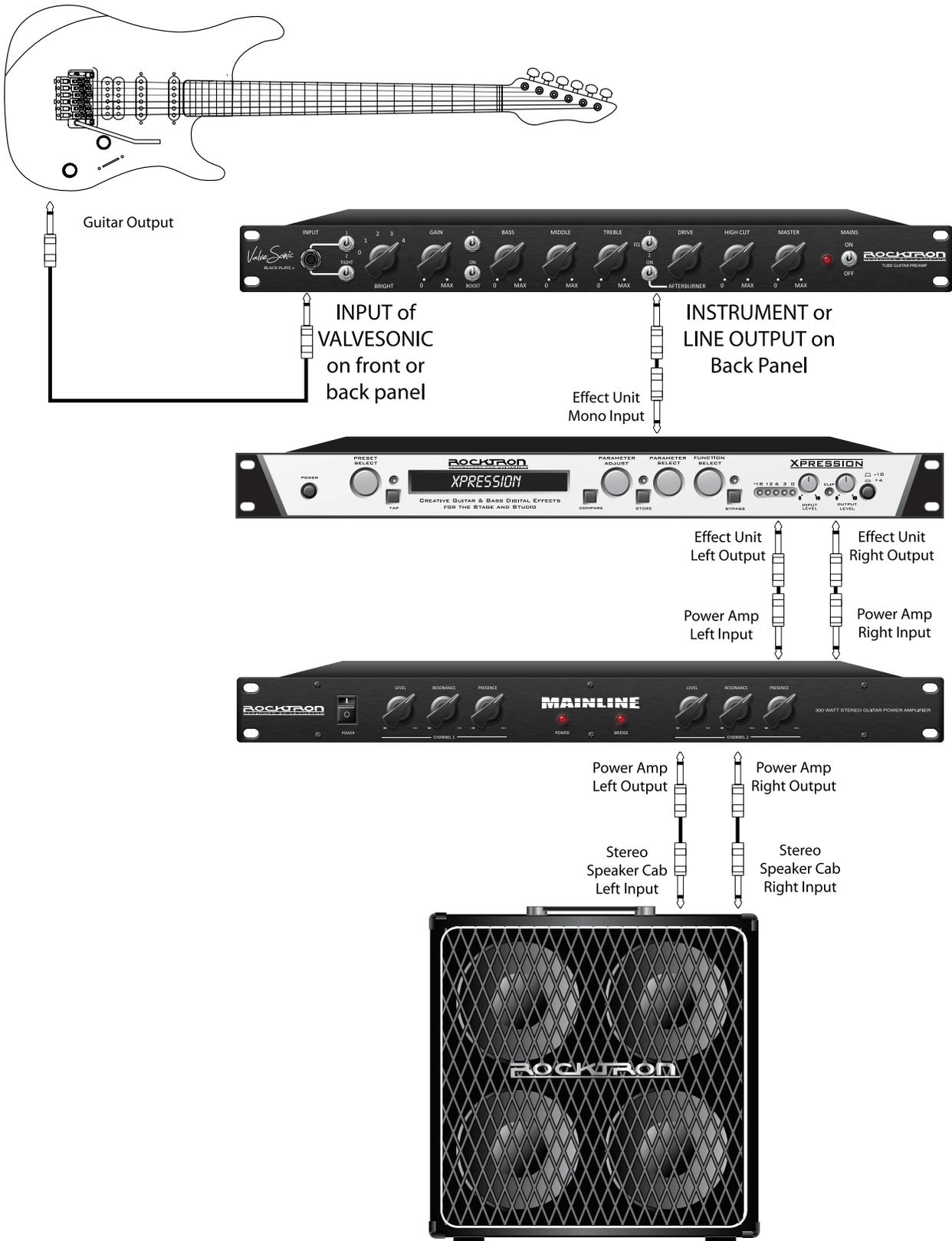
5 INPUT jack:

This standard 1/4” mono jack provides an input to the VALVESONIC from a guitar or other effect.

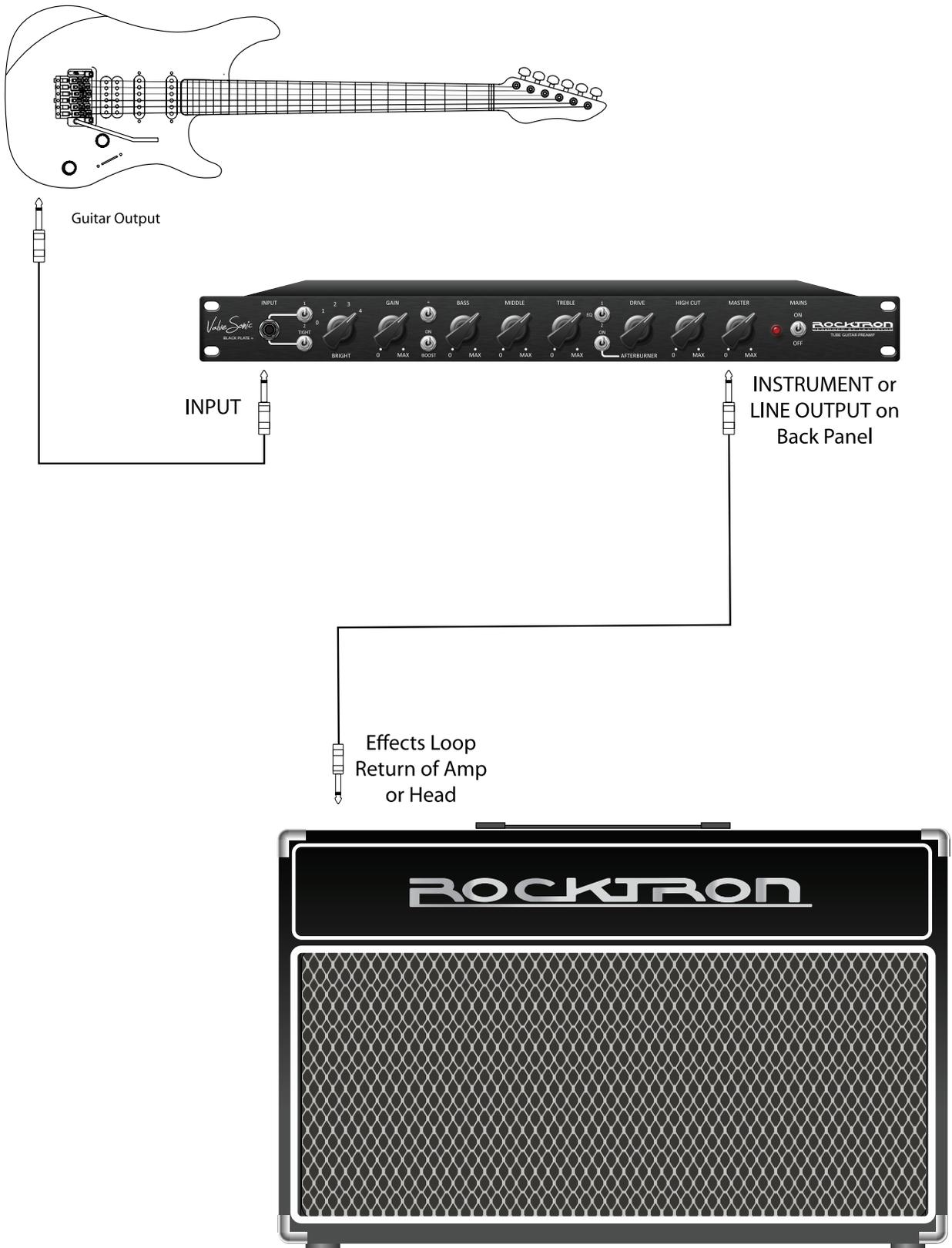
Connection 1



Connection 2



Connection 3

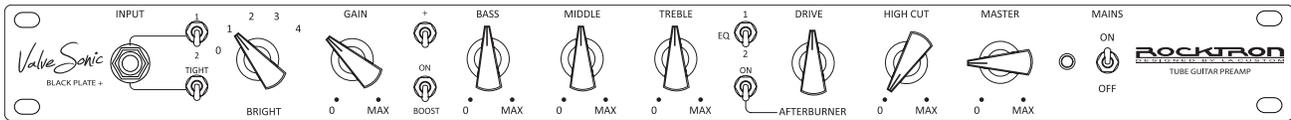


Suggested Starting Points

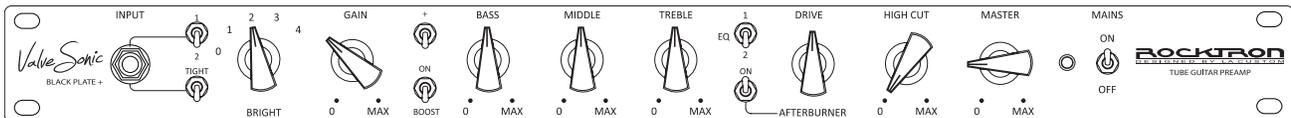
Here are some **suggested starting points** to help you replicate various tones from American amps.

With all of the switches in the “DOWN” position the ValveSonic Black Plate + replicates the first (classic) BLACK PLATE amps.

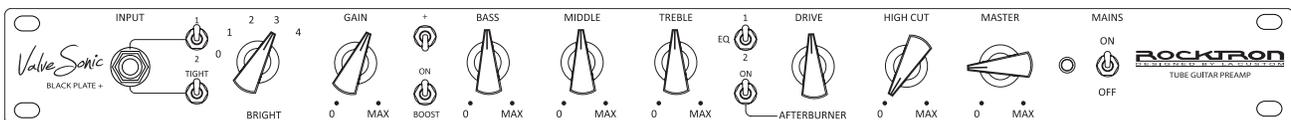
Classic Amp Tone - Black Plate Clean



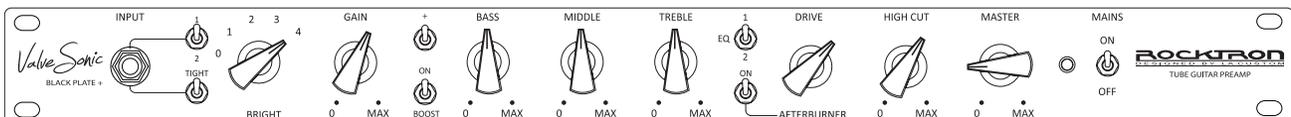
Crunch - Deluxe



California Overdrive 1 - Mark 1



California Overdrive 2 - Mark 2



USA WARRANTY

(Other Countries may vary. Contact the Rocktron Distributor in your country for details.)
All parts and workmanship of this Rocktron product, (excluding tubes), are fully guaranteed to be free of manufacturing defects under normal use and service for a period of **ONE** year from the original date of purchase.

Rocktron requires that the dated proof of purchase be retained throughout the warranty period and that said purchase be from an authorized Rocktron retailer. There are no requirements such as product registration, but rather simply proof of purchase through presentation of actual receipt of purchase payment to the authorized retailer.

The tubes on Rocktron products are guaranteed to be free from manufacturing defects under normal use for the period of **90 DAYS** from the date of purchase.

Any damage resulting from mis-use or failure to follow instructions and precautions as stated in the product manual will void this warranty.

Should your Rocktron product need repair during the warranty period, Rocktron will assume responsibility for repair service. **DO NOT RETURN THE PRODUCT TO THE DEALER.** Service may be performed at an authorized Rocktron service center, as listed currently on the Rocktron website at www.rocktron.com, or you may contact us directly at 269-968-3351 for information on servicing or repairs.

Outside the USA, please refer to the Rocktron website for distributor information to obtain valid warranty servicing or repairs.

All shipping charges for repairs must be fully prepaid.

This warranty is void if the unit has been altered in any way.

Rocktron reserves the right to make changes in design and/or improvements upon their products without any obligation to include those changes in any products previously manufactured.

There is no other express warranty on goods covered by this agreement.

At Rocktron, we have tried to keep our warranty and service policies simple and easy to use. Should you encounter any problems with your Rocktron product, you may want to first contact our Customer Support Department (USA customers) at 269-968-3351. Outside the USA, please refer to our website for Distributor information within your country.

Should you require service, you may find a Rocktron service center listed on the Rocktron website at www.rocktron.com, or you may be directed as to where to send your product for repair service by our Service Department at 269-968-3351. Please be sure to include an informative description of your problem if you are requested to return your product to Rocktron for servicing. Also be sure to include your name, address, phone number and email address to enable our service technicians to reach you, if necessary.

ROCKTRON is a division of GHS Corporation 2813 Wilber Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49037

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Valve Sonic

TUBE GUITAR PREAMP

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