

Imperial®

TRI TUBE PREAMP

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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Please keep this instruction manual for future reference and for the duration of owning this TONE KING preamp. Please carefully read and understand the instructions inside this user's manual before attempting to operate your new amp. This instruction manual includes essential safety information regarding the use and maintenance of the Pre-Amp. Take special care to heed all warning symbols and signs inside this manual and those printed on the Pre-Amp itself.


WARNING!
TO PREVENT FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD, DO NOT EXPOSE THE PRE-AMP TO WATER OR MOISTURE. DO NOT OPERATE NEAR ANY WATER SOURCE


WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
The lightning flash with an arrow triangular symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of non-insulated "dangerous voltage" within the products enclosure, and may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock


WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
The exclamation point triangular symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the user manual accompanying this Pre-Amp!

1. Read Instructions – All the safety and operating instructions should be read before this product is operated.
2. Retain Instructions – The safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.
3. Heed Warnings – All warnings on the Pre-Amp and in the operating instructions should be adhered to.
4. Follow Instructions – All operating and use instructions should be followed.
5. Water and Moisture – The Pre-Amp should not be used near water – for example, a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, wet basement, or near a swimming pool, and the like.

6. Heat – Pre-Amp should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other Pre-Amp (including Pre-Amps) that produce heat.
7. Power Sources – This product should be operated only from the type of power source indicated on the rating label.
8. Power-Cord Protection
– Power-supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to the cord in correspondence of plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the Pre-Amp.
9. Non-use Periods – The power cord of the Pre-Amp should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.
10. Object and Liquid Entry
– Care should be taken so that objects do not fall, and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through openings.
11. Damage Requiring Service
– The Pre-Amp should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:
A. The power-supply cord or the plug has been damaged; or
B. Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the Preamp; or
C. The Pre-Amp has been exposed to rain; or
D. The Pre-Amp does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance; or
E. The Pre-Amp has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.
F. The Pre-Amp needs tube replacement
12. Servicing – The user should not attempt any service to the Preamp beyond that described in the operating instructions.
All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.
13. Ventilation – Slots and openings in the cabinet are provided for ventilation and to ensure reliable operation of the product and to protect it from overheating, and these openings must not be blocked or covered.
14. Replacement Parts – When replacement parts are required, be sure the service technician has used replacement parts specified by the manufacturer or have the same characteristics as the original part. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock, or other hazards.
15. Safety Check – Upon completion of any service or repairs to this product, ask the service technician to perform safety checks to determine that the product is in proper operating condition.

***NOTE**: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures: - Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna. - Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver. - Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected. - Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/ TV technician for help.*

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

IMPERIAL PREAMP – THREE TUBE HIGH VOLTAGE PREAMP

The Imperial All-Tube Preamp pedal delivers Tone King's legendary MKII amplifier's '50s tweed, '60s blackface, and vintage British rock tones in a compact, pedalboard-friendly format. It features the exact preamp section and phase inverter circuitry of the Imperial MKII amp, as well as Reverb, Tremolo and Attenuation, resulting in a pedal that sings with harmonic richness and blooming touch response. Powered by three 12AX7 preamp tubes running at high voltage, this preamp delivers the amp's sound, responsiveness, and exquisite interaction with your pickups and effects. The onboard, low-latency impulse response (IR) loader (per channel), Headphones, easy integration and expansion with your existing gear, and MIDI capabilities, takes these iconic tones into the new era of guitar playing.

Features

- Two Channel High-Voltage preamp – DI
- 3 x 12AX7 preamp tubes running at proper high voltages
- Built-In zero-watt poweramp - phase inverter circuit
- Two channels with independent Volume and Attenuation controls
- Rhythm Channel (top)
  - '60s-era American blackface combo tone
  - Bass and Treble controls
- Lead Channel (Bottom)
  - '50s-era American tweed combo and British rock tones
  - Tone and Mid-Bite controls
- Spring Reverb (convolution)
- Reverb and Dwell controls
  - Independently assignable to each channel
- Tremolo (digital)
  - Depth and Speed controls
  - Independently assignable to each channel
- Stereo, Series FX loop (bypassable)
- MIDI programmable
- Save up to 128 presets for instant recall via an external MIDI switcher
  - Presets save:
  - Channel selection
  - Master bypass setting
  - IR selection
  - IR bypass setting
  - Effects loop bypass setting
  - Reverb bypass and tails settings
  - Tremolo bypass settings
- Onboard Impulse Response (IR) Technology
  - Low-latency Impulse Response cabinet simulation (bypassable)
  - 3-position CAB/IR select switch per channel (programmable via software)
  - Included OwnHammer IRs
- Poweramp simulation with software editable HF Comp and Low-Pass filters (per channel)

Connections:

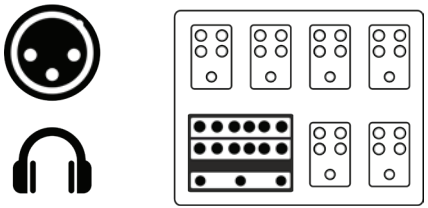
- Dual stereo balanced XLR outputs with Ground Lift Switch
- ¼" Headphone output
- Effects Send and Stereo Return Jacks
- MIDI 5-pin standard connector
- USB-C connector for use with the included SYNERGY EDITOR APP and USB Audio Streaming from external device to Imperial onboard Headphones and DI.
- To Amp In, From Amp Send and From Amp Return Jacks – for adding Imperial channels to your amp or preamp
- SYNERGY EDITOR APP is powered by SYNERGY.
- Included
  - 6' USB Cable
  - Universal 12V Power Supply
- Dimensions: 7.2" (W) x 5.7" (D) x 2.75" (H)
- Weight: 1.9 lbs.

PEDAL BOARD AMP - DIRECT OUT

Use the IMPERIAL preamp as a portable pedalboard amp replacement, or with headphones at home for practicing.

You can also use the integrated DI output to directly connect the IMPERIAL preamp to your RECORDING interface, monitors or PA system.

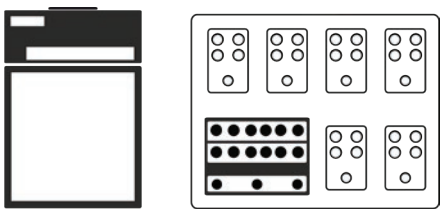
The IMPERIAL preamp can fully replace your existing amplifier by giving you the exact same HIGH VOLTAGE tube tone without compromise.



EXTERNAL AMP PREAMP

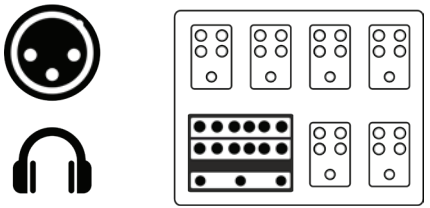
When you feel the need to hear a 4x12 cabinet's shaking response, connect the IMPERIAL preamp's "TO AMP RETURN" to your favorite guitar amplifier's effects loop Return and feel the IMPERIAL preamp's capabilities.

You will still be able to use the internal poweramp and IR cabinet simulation for direct recording at the same time!



POWERAMP AND IR CABINET SIMULATOR

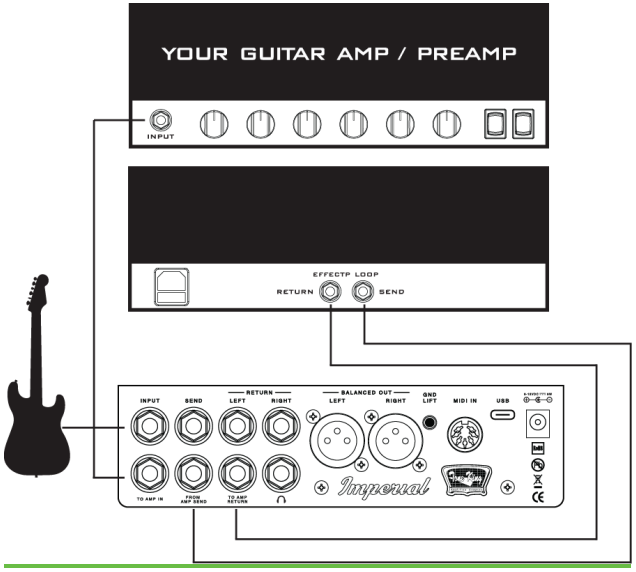
Use the IMPERIAL preamp solely as an IR Cabinet and amp simulator by simply connecting it to any other preamp. See the "CONNECTING IMPERIAL preamp TO YOUR HEAD OR COMBO" section for more information.



CONNECTING THE IMPERIAL PREAMP TO YOUR HEAD OR COMBO

The IMPERIAL preamp can be used to ADD channels to your existing head or combo. You will need three high-quality, shielded instrument cables in addition to your guitar cable. Follow these simple steps:

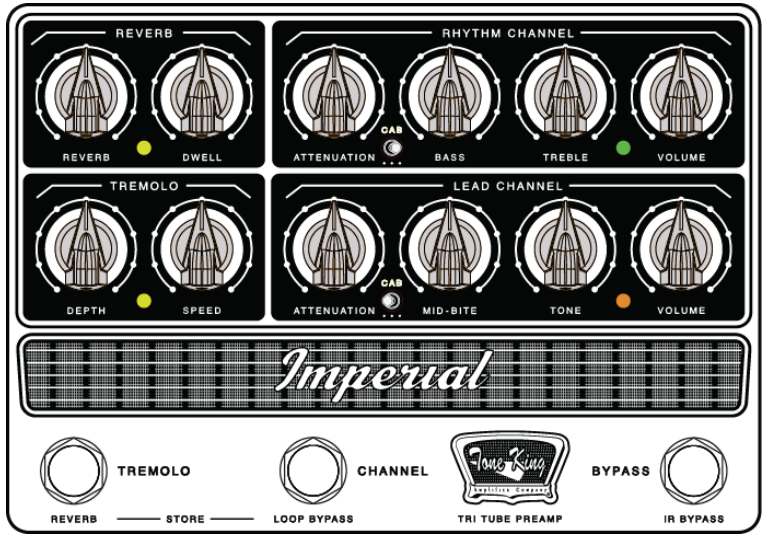
1) Connect your guitar to the INPUT of the IMPERIAL preamp
2) Connect an instrument cable from "TO AMP IN" on the IMPERIAL preamp to the INPUT of your amp.
3) Connect an instrument cable from "FROM AMP FX SEND" to the FX LOOP SEND of your amp.
4) Connect an instrument cable from "TO AMP FX RETURN" to the FX LOOP RETURN of your amp.
5) The BYPASS switch allows you to toggle between the channels on your IMPERIAL preamp or in BYPASS mode, bypasses the IMPERIAL preamp channels and engages your amplifier's channel(s). In BYPASS mode, your amp will operate as normal. The Reverb and Tremolo effects of the IMPERIAL can *still* operate on your amp channels if you wish. You have just magically added two new channels to your amp!
6) Use the EFFECTS loop of the IMPERIAL (SEND and STEREO RETURN) now becomes the EFFECTS LOOP of your entire system. Use LEFT RETURN when connecting in MONO.



IMPORTANT - if placing the IMPERIAL preamp on top of a head cabinet or combo, you MUST place the IMPERIAL preamp on the opposite side of your amp's main transformer (usually the input side). Placing the IMPERIAL preamp over the mains transformer may cause noise to enter the signal chain.

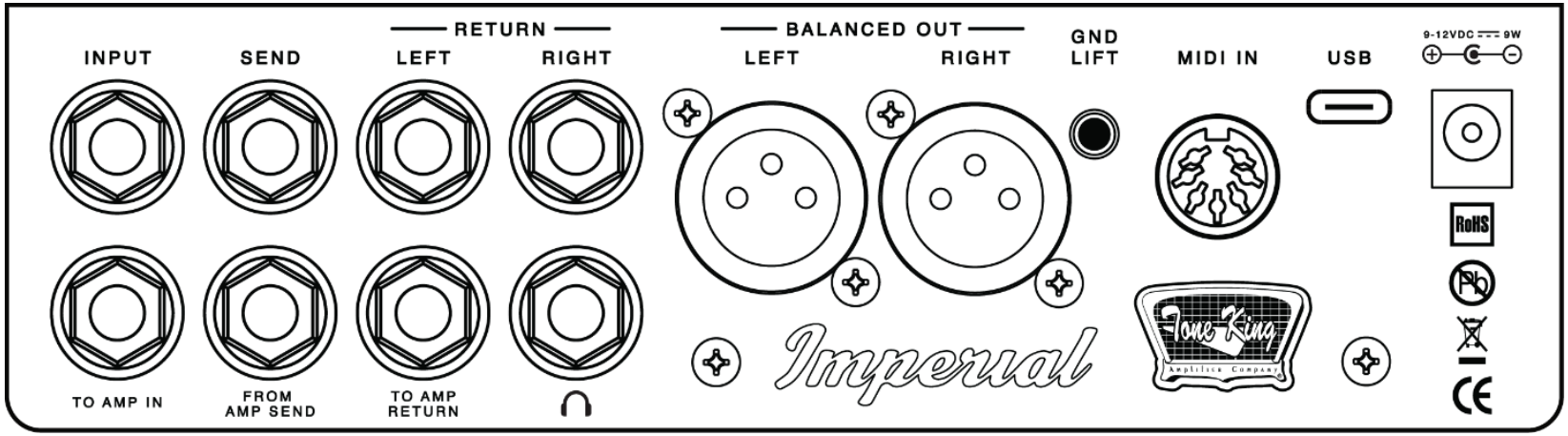
There are some special requirements and/or caveats when using the IMPERIAL preamp to add channels to your amp. The loop on your amp MUST be a 100% series loop. The IMPERIAL preamp will not work with a parallel loop. If in doubt, consult the manufacturer of your amp to determine this. One known issue is with the Mesa Dual and Triple Rectifier, Road King and Roadster amps that prevents the IMPERIAL preamp from working properly in the loop. By design, the Boogie loops on these models always have a small amount of dry signal mixed in with the loop which will wreak havoc with many rack effects as well as the IMPERIAL preamp. There may be other amps that we are not aware of with loops that are not compatible.

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS



- **REVERB**
  - **LEVEL**: Mix control for the Reverb.
  - **DWELL:** Decay time control for the Reverb.
  - Long press the "TREMOLO" button to engage the Reverb. The assigned LED will let you know when the Reverb is ON or OFF.
- **TREMOLO**
  - **DEPTH:** Sets the intensity of the Tremolo effect.
  - **SPEED:** Sets the speed of the modulation. Lower settings produce a smooth, floating sound. Higher settings produce a rotor-like effect.
  - Press the "TREMOLO" button to engage the TREMOLO. The assigned LED will let you know when the Tremolo is ON or OFF.
  - Use the CHANNEL button to toggle between the RHYTHM and LEAD channels
  - **CAB SWITCH:** 3-Way Cabinet/IR Preset Selector.
  - **ATTENUATION:** Determines how much the signal is attenuated after the phase

REAR PANEL CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS



- **INPUT:** This is the IMPERIAL preamp Guitar Input Jack. Plug your guitar or the output of your pedal board here (just as you would with your amplifier)

MASTER EFFECTS LOOP:

- **SEND JACK:** This is your system's master effects loop SEND - this is where you plug the INPUT of your Effect(s).
- **STEREO RETURN JACKS:** This is where you plug the OUTPUT of your Effect(s). Use the LEFT jack when operating in MONO. Use a high-quality shielded guitar cable.

  You can turn the LOOP ON or OFF using the LOOP BYPASS switch.

- **BALANCED OUTPUTS:** XLR outputs used to send your IMPERIAL preamp tone straight to the mixing board or active cabinet. These outputs will have your IR and POWER AMP sim. The IR can be bypassed.
- **GND LIFT:** This switch enables or disables the ground connection on the BALANCED OUT to eliminate possible ground loops.

  TO AMP IN, FROM AMP SEND and TO AMP RETURN - please visit the "CONNECTING THE IMPERIAL preamp TO YOUR HEAD OR COMBO" section of this manual.

- **TO AMP IN**: Instrument true bypass output. Connect this to the input of an external preamp or guitar amplifier to expand your channels. This will only be active in BYPASS mode.

- **FROM AMP SEND**: Connect to the OUTPUT of an external preamp, or to the SEND of an external guitar amplifier to expand your channels. This will only be active in BYPASS mode.
- **TO AMP RETURN**: Connect to the RETURN of an external guitar amplifier to expand your channels. TO AMP RETURN is always active regardless of BYPASS mode.

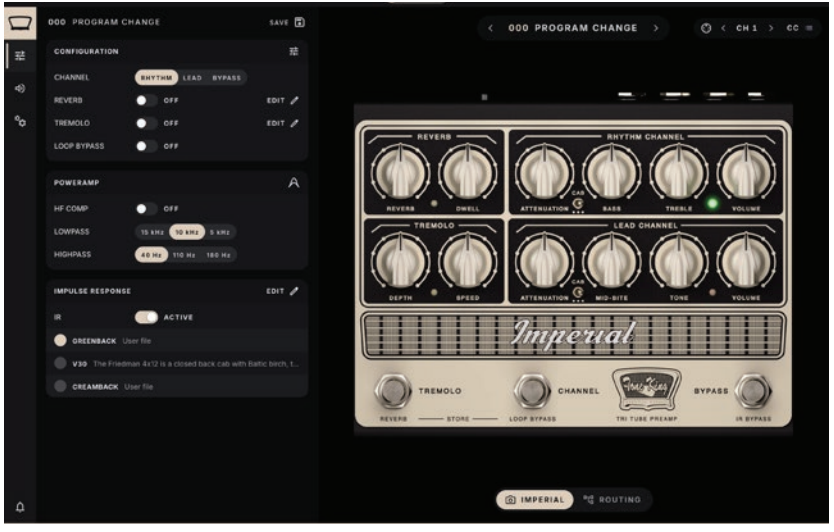
  You can also use this jack as an input of your guitar poweramp to simultaneously use the IMPERIAL preamp as DI/Record Interface and poweramp for monitoring.
- **HEADPHONES:** Headphones connector. Always make sure to lower the master volume before wearing the headphones and slowly increase the volume to the desired level to avoid too much SPL on your ear.

  NOTE: *When using the IMPERIAL preamp with just a guitar and headphones, using a regular non-earthed power supply like the one supplied, there will be no connection to your house earth and your guitar will likely pick up more noise (HUM) depending on your environment. For a noise free experience, please connect the SEND, RETURN, BALANCED OUT or USB to an earthed device such as an amp, audio interface, monitor or an effects pedal. Consider using an earthed power supply if this will be your primary use case.*
- **MIDI-IN:** MIDI connector to control IMPERIAL preamp with an external midi device (Default channel is OMNI)
- **USB:** USB Connector for software update, IMPERIAL preamp remote programming and AUDIO streaming from an external device to IMPERIAL preamp headphones and DI output.
- **DC INPUT:** DC Input power connector, use 9V to 12V adapter with >= 9W power available.

TONE KING EDITOR SOFTWARE

Please visit www.toneking.com to download the SYNERGY EDITOR APP.

The Tone King IMPERIAL preamp features easy-to-use software (powered by SYNERGY) that allows you to upload your own IR'S, program all MIDI presets and MIDI functionalities, including selecting HF Comp and Low Pass filters per channel.



INCLUDED IR'S

The Tone King IMPERIAL preamp is pre-loaded with three IR'S. You can load different one, or your own, using the Editor Software.

- **OH 112 Imperial TK1660** Tone King 1660 captured in a Tone King IMPERIAL 1x12 combo by Kevin Rowe of OwnHammer using Shure SM57, Neumann U87, and Royer 121 microphones through mid-late 1970's API 312 preamps.

- **OH 212 Class A Blue** Celestion Blue's from 1963 captured in a Vox AC30 2x12 combo by Kevin Rowe of OwnHammer using Shure SM57, Neumann U87, and Royer 121 microphones through mid-late 1970's API 312 preamps.

- **OH 412 Basketweave M25** Celestion G12M-25's from 1971 captured in a basket-weave 1960B 4x12 cabinet by Kevin Rowe of OwnHammer using Shure SM57, Telefunken MD421, and Royer 121 microphones through mid-late 1970's API 312 preamps.

FIRMWARE UPDATES

The IMPERIAL preamp Editor Software automatically checks for device firmware updates when using an internet connection.

Important: DO NOT DISCONNECT OR POWER DOWN IMPERIAL PREAMP DURING A FIRMWARE UPDATE to avoid damage to your unit.

SYNERGY EDITOR APP TOP PANEL CONTROLS



- CONNECTED Green Light indicates connection status of the Imperial Preamp. Connected device name is displayed in the center.

- PROGRAM CHANGE selector lets you navigate through all the 128 storable MIDI PROGRAM CHANGES available (0-127) and it's relative settings. This will actively interact with the connected Imperial Preamp and switch presets on the device as well.

- SAVE button will store all the changes made to all presets inside the unit. MAKE SURE TO STORE ANY CHANGE before powering down the Imperial Preamp.

- MIDI CHANNEL selector will program the MIDI INPUT channel the Imperial will use. Default is OMNI mode (Imperial Preamp will listen to all channels).

- CC Reference selector will display a list of MIDI CC commands for the Imperial Preamp.

SYNERGY EDITOR APP QUICKSTART

The Synergy Editor App allows you to configure your Imperial Preamp from an intuitive software interface. Connect your Imperial Preamp via USB to use the Synergy Editor App.

Presets
Edit the pedal settings / save your presets (this screen).

Impulse Responses
Drag and drop presets from the Synergy Editor App Preset library. Up to 3 IRs per channel. Edit EQ and Phase settings and use the visual editor to customise the EQ. Supported formats are WAV 44.1K to 96K for user installed IRs.

Global Settings
Edit Global settings for your device.

Notifications
View latest updates from the Tone King family.

Version Information
Synergy Editor App version and Firmware version.

Configuration Panel
Adjust Reverb, Loop Bypass, and Tremolo settings for each channel.

Poweramp Panel
Adjust HF Compensation and High and Low pass filtering for each channel.



IR Selection
View and select one of 3 pre-loaded IRs for the selected channel.

Device View
View the status of the indicator lights for the connected device.

TONE KING 3-YEAR WARRANTY

Thank you for choosing TONE KING. TONE KING manufactures some of the world's most reliable and innovative guitar products. TONE KING takes great pride in an extremely thorough testing procedure, which is implemented on each product prior to shipment. In the unlikely event that you have a problem with your pre-amp, please refer to the warranty below. TONE KING stands behind our products like no other and we're here to help you!

PRE-AMP: TONE KING offers a limited 3 (three) year warranty to the original purchaser that this TONE KING pre-amp will be free from defects in material and workmanship. A dated sales receipt will establish coverage under this warranty, PLEASE KEEP YOUR PROOF OF PURCHASE TO USE YOUR WARRANTY. This warranty does not cover service or parts to repair damage caused by accident, neglect, abuse, normal & wear, disaster, misuse, abuse, over-powering, negligence, inadequate packing or shipping procedures and service, repair or any modifications to the product which have not been authorized or approved by TONE KING in writing. **ANY MODIFICATION TO THE PRE-AMP WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY**. If this product is defective in materials or workmanship as warranted above, your sole remedy shall be repair or replacement by TONE KING as provided below.

CAUTION: Do NOT attempt to repair, modify or service your pre-amp by yourself!!! Please read the instruction manual for all safety notifications, warnings and instructions.

This TONE KING pre-amp has extremely high voltages that can cause serious injury or death. Do not remove the chassis from the pre-amp. All repair and service work must be performed by TONE KING or an authorized service center of TONE KING. ANY UNAUTHORIZED REPAIRS WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY.

TUBES: TONE KING warrants the original purchaser that the specific tubes used in TONE KING will be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 90 days from the original date of purchase. A dated sales receipt will establish coverage under this warranty. This tube warranty will automatically terminate 90 days after the original retail sales date. This tube warranty is in lieu of all other expressed warranties. If tubes fail within the 90-day warranty period, your sole remedy shall be replacement of tubes as provided below.

RETURN PROCEDURES: In the unlikely event that a defect occurs please email us at TONE KINGamps@gmail.com. In most cases we can help you diagnose the problem over the phone. If a product must be sent to us, please follow the procedure outlined below.

- Defective products must be shipped, together with proof of purchase, freight pre-paid and insured to the Authorized TONE KING Service Center or directly to TONE KING.
- If a product must be returned to TONE KING for warranty replacement/repair, a Return Authorization Number must be obtained from our Customer Service Department prior to shipping the product.
- Please contact TONE KING Customer Service Department for the Authorized TONE KING Service Center nearest you.
- Products must be shipped in their original packaging or its equivalent; in any case, the risk of loss or damage in transit is to be borne by the purchaser.
- The Return Authorization Number must appear in large print directly below the shipping address.
- Always include a brief description of the defect, along with your correct return address and telephone number.
- When calling to inquire about a returned product, always refer to the Return Authorization Number.

If TONE KING determines that the unit was defective in materials or workmanship at any time during the warranty period, TONE KING has the option of repairing or replacing the product at no additional charge, except as set forth below.

- All replaced parts become the property of TONE KING. Products replaced or repaired under this warranty will be returned via ground shipping within the United States or Canada - freight prepaid.
- TONE KING is not responsible for costs associated with expedited shipping, either to TONE KING or the return of the product to the customer.

All warranty repairs outside the United States and Canada must be directed to the dealer or distributor from which you purchased the product.

INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGE: In no event will TONE KING be liable for any incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use or inability to use of any TONE KING product, even if a TONE KING dealer has been advised of the possibility of such damages, or any other claim by any other party. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of consequential damages, so the above limitation and exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which may vary from state to state.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION: Please complete and send in the completed warranty registration card to: TONE KING , care of Boutique Amps Distribution, 5300 Harbor Street, Commerce, CA 90255. Please send within (10) ten days of the date of purchase so that we may contact you directly in the event a safety notification issued in accordance with the 1972 Consumer Product Safety Act.



www.ToneKing.com